Black Jack

Osamu Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 6

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Akane Ishida
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DOWNPOUR

QUIET DOWN!
GONTA, TO THE END OF THE LINE!

YOU ALL STINK. BATHE AT LEAST THE DAY BEFORE YOUR CHECK-UP.

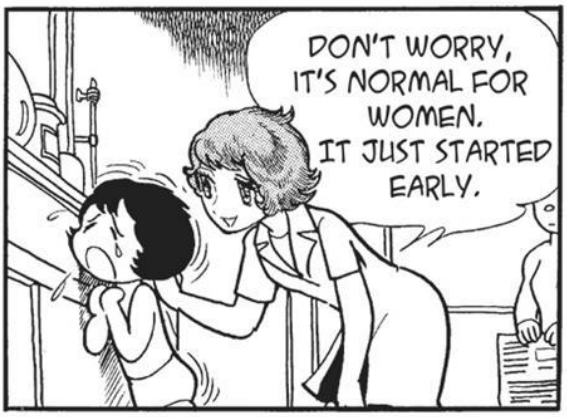
SHUDDAP
DOCTOR, YOU AIN'T PRETTY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY.
YOU SAID IT.

YOUR TONGUE'S A LITTLE WHITE. HOW DOES FOOD TASTE? WEREN'T YOU THE PICKY SORT?
UGH, FIVE MORE TO GO.
PERV !!

WHAT'S WRONG?
NO, NO! I DON'T WANT NO CHECK-UP!

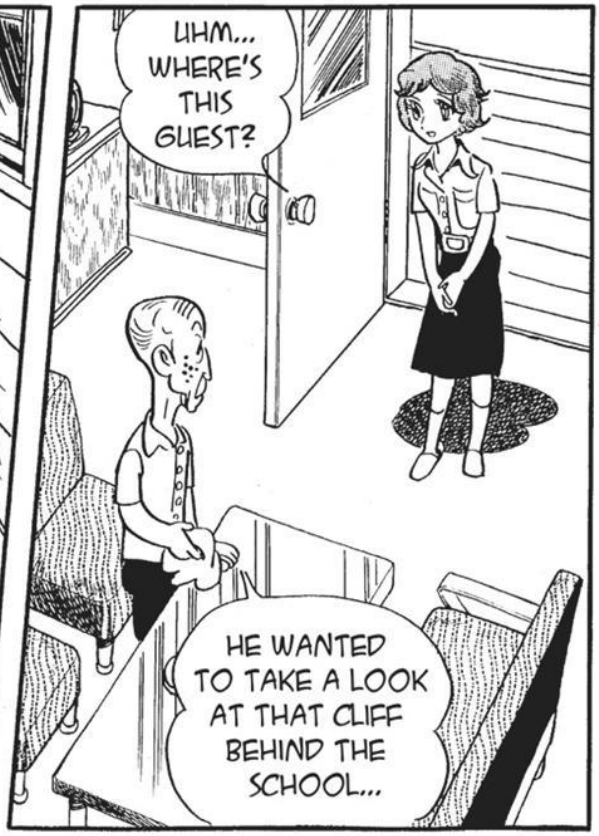
CLASS 4-A, GIRLS.

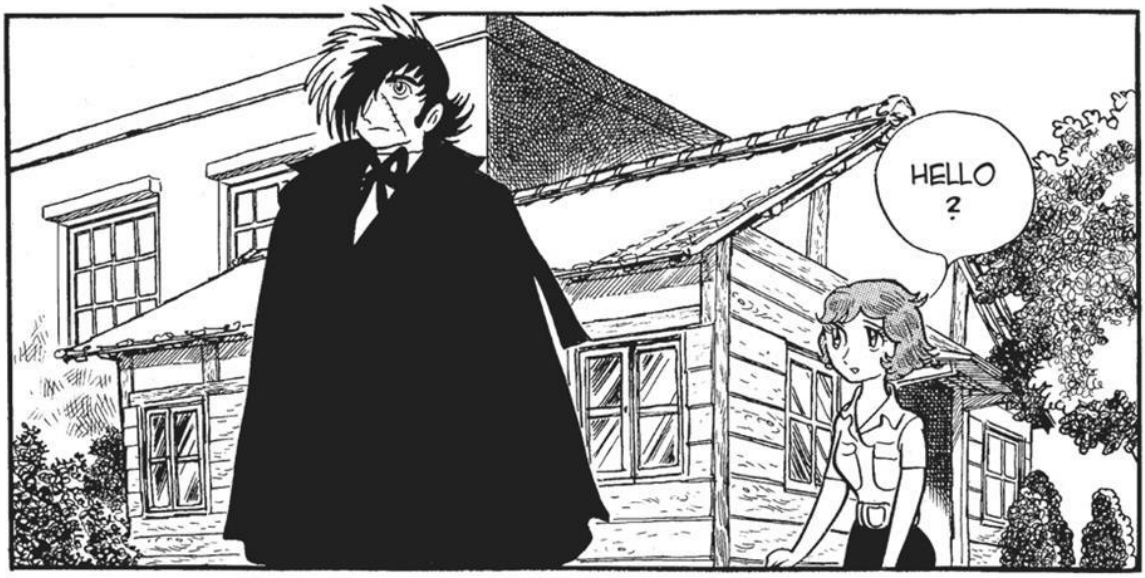
HEY! NO PEEPING!


DON'T WORRY, IT'S NORMAL FOR WOMEN. IT JUST STARTED EARLY.

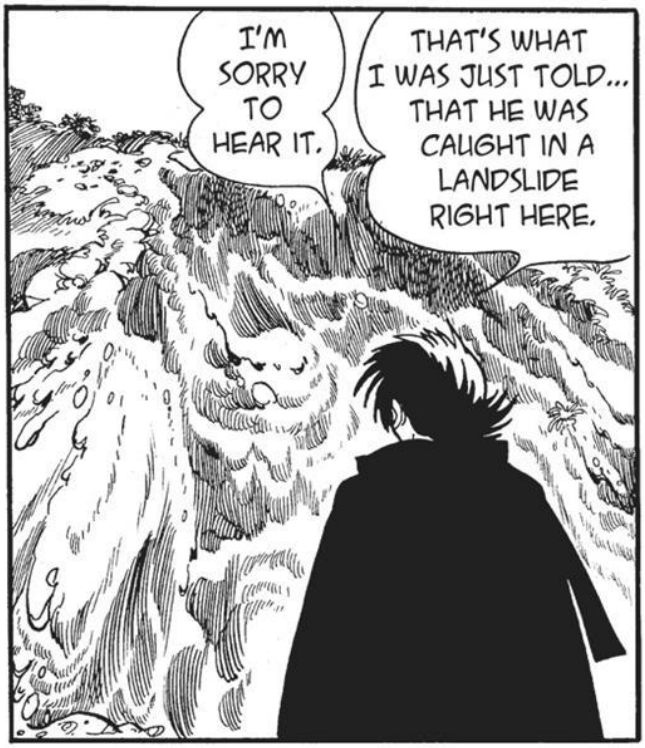
FROM THE MAIN ISLES... WHO COULD IT BE?

I'LL COME TO THE GUEST ROOM WHEN I'M ALL DONE HERE ...
YOU'VE A GUEST FROM THE MAIN ISLES.
DOCTOR SHIMIZU

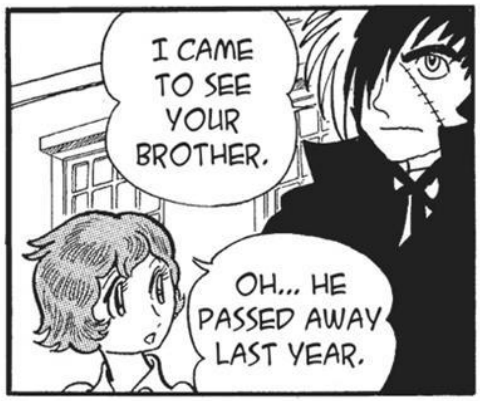

UHM... WHERE'S THIS GUEST?
HE WANTED TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CLIFF BEHIND THE SCHOOL...


HELLO ?

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
YOU MUST BE IKUO SHIMIZU'S YOUNGER SISTER.

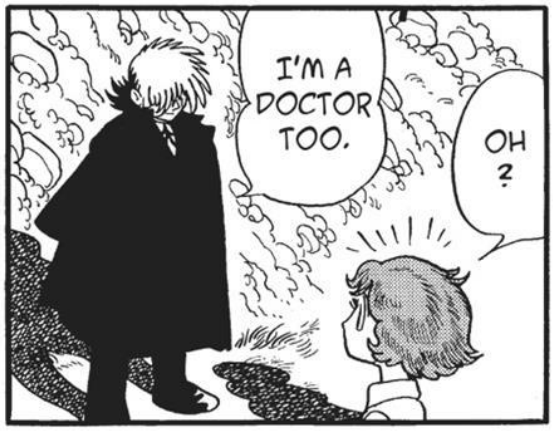

I'M SORRY TO HEAR IT.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS JUST TOLD... THAT HE WAS CAUGHT IN A LANDSLIDE RIGHT HERE.

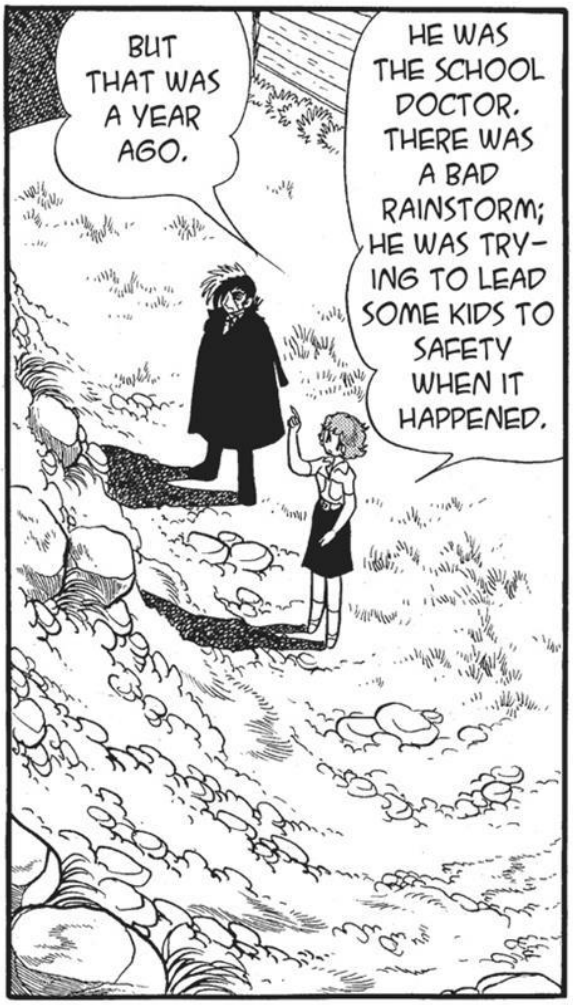
WELL! YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE HIM.


I CAME TO SEE YOUR BROTHER.
OH... HE PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR.

HOW DID YOU KNOW HIM?

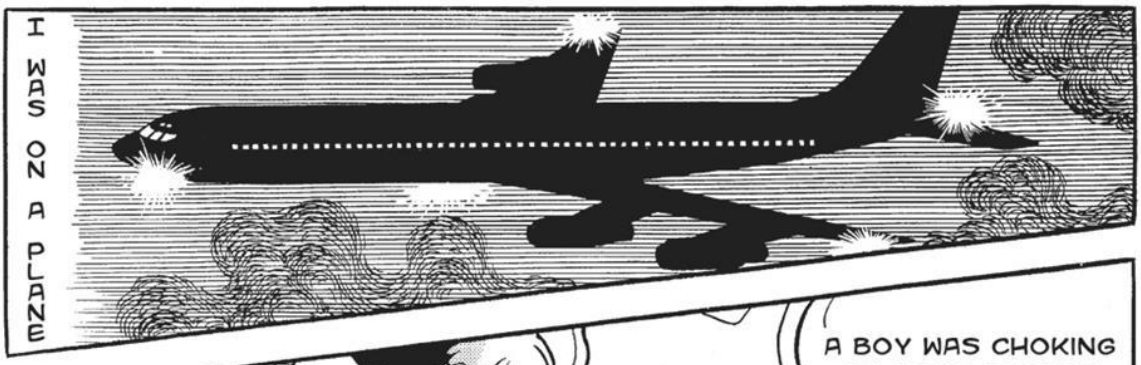
DOCTOR SHIMIZU HELPED ME OUT ONCE.

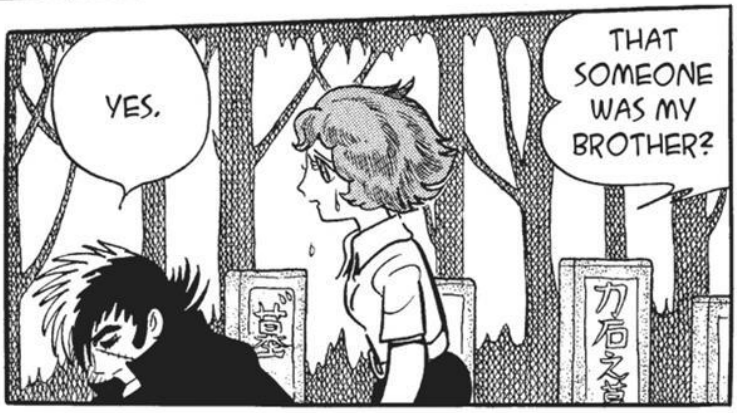

I'M A DOCTOR TOO.
OH ?


BUT THAT WAS A YEAR AGO.
HE WAS THE SCHOOL DOCTOR. THERE WAS A BAD RAINSTORM; HE WAS TRYING TO LEAD SOME KIDS TO SAFETY WHEN IT HAPPENED.

TWEET

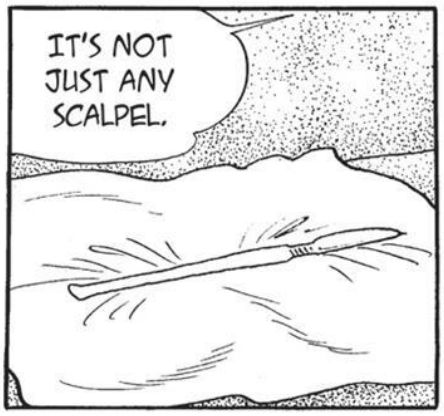
TWEET
清澄院水明居士



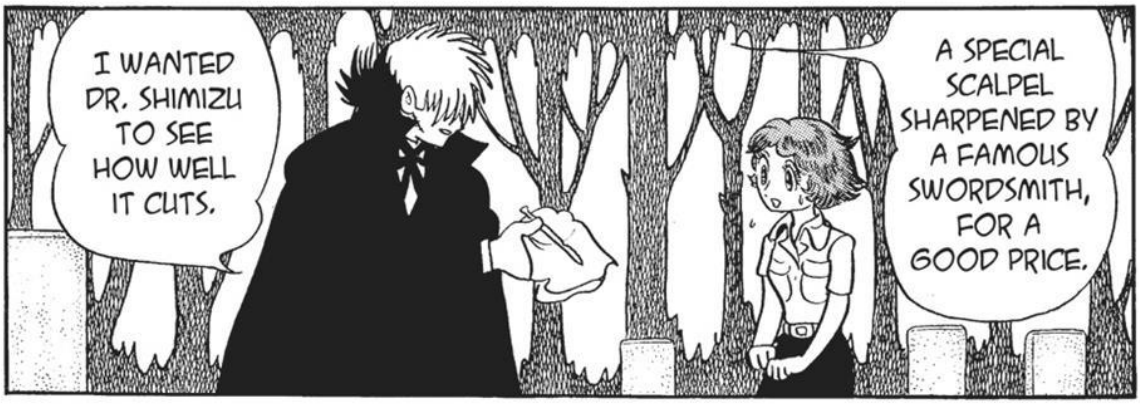


NOTE: THE GRAVESTONE ON THE RIGHT READS "TOMB OF RIKIISHI." IT ALLUDES TO A REAL-LIFE FUNERAL THAT WAS HELD FOR A FICTIONAL CHARACTER FROM THE BOXING MANGA *TOMORROW'S JOE*. THE GRAVESTONE ON THE LEFT READS "HAKA" OR *TOMB*, BUT THE STROKES THAT RESEMBLE A QUOTATION MARK TURN IT INTO "BAKA" OR *STUPID*.

IT IS A TREASURE


IT'S NOT JUST ANY SCALPEL.

REALLY?


I WANTED DR. SHIMIZU TO SEE HOW WELL IT CUTS.
A SPECIAL SCALPEL SHARPENED BY A FAMOUS SWORDSMITH, FOR A GOOD PRICE.

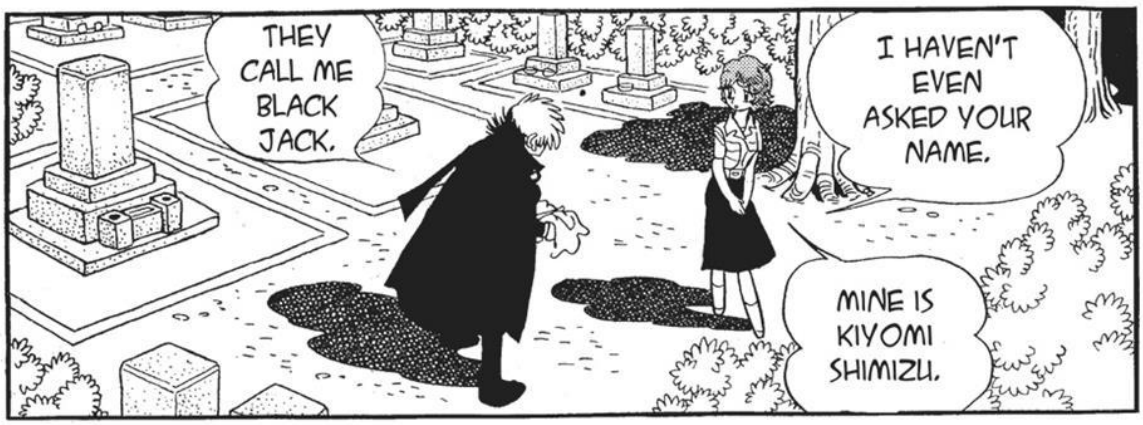
KEEP IT PLEASE. AREN'T YOU A DOCTOR, TOO?

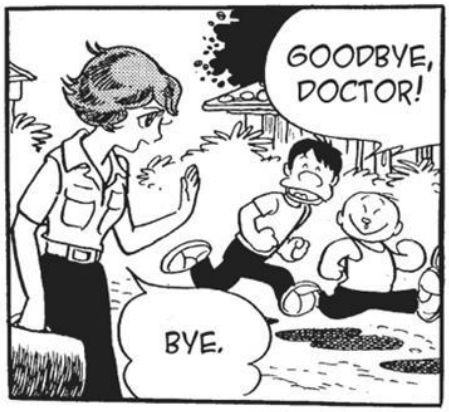
YOUR THOUGHT'S ENOUGH. SINCE MY BROTHER IS DEAD—

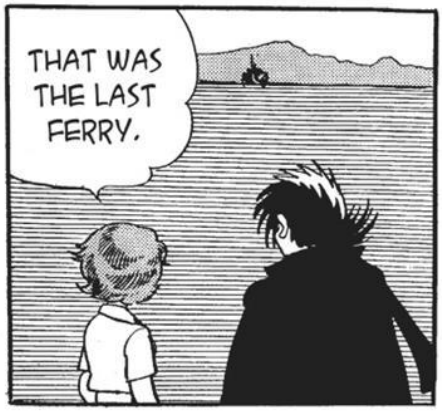
...

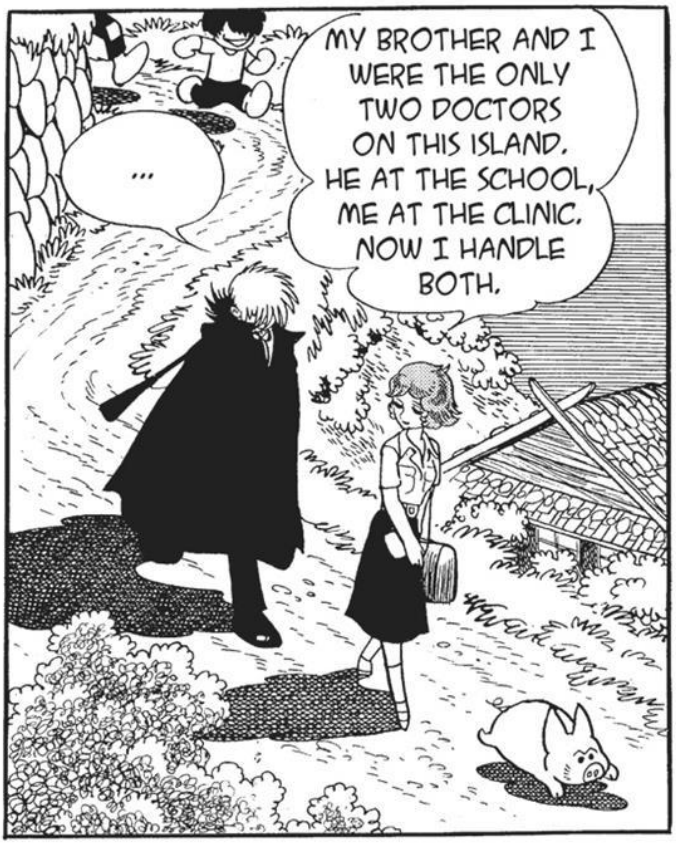
I DON'T PERFORM SURGERIES! HERE, TAKE IT BACK.
IT'S YOUR TREASURE, ISN'T IT?

YES, OF INTERNAL MEDICINE. THANKS, BUT... I DON'T NEED THIS.
IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY.

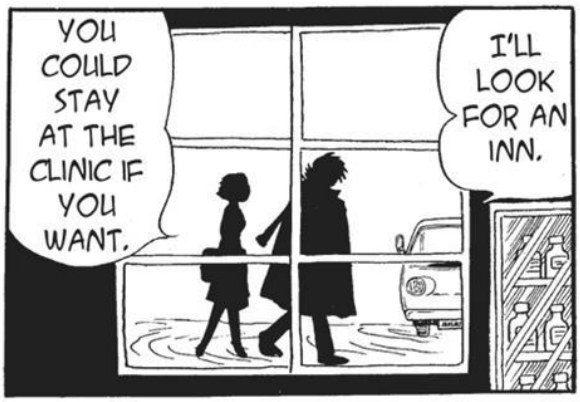

THEY CALL ME BLACK JACK.
I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED YOUR NAME.
MINE IS KIYOMI SHIMIZU.


GOODBYE, DOCTOR!
BYE.


THAT WAS THE LAST FERRY.


...
MY BROTHER AND I WERE THE ONLY TWO DOCTORS ON THIS ISLAND. HE AT THE SCHOOL, ME AT THE CLINIC. NOW I HANDLE BOTH.

A LOT LIKE WHERE I LIVE.
A SAD LITTLE ISLAND, NO?


YOU COULD STAY AT THE CLINIC IF YOU WANT.
I'LL LOOK FOR AN INN.

I REALLY LIKED HIM.
I TAGGED ALONG. YOU SEE,

IKUO REALLY WANTED THIS.

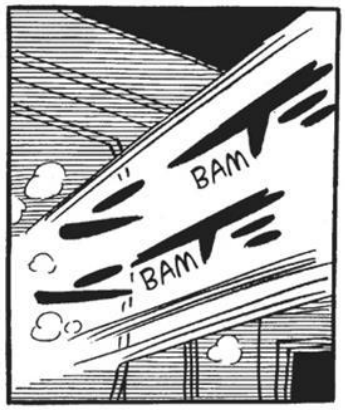
SO HOW DID YOU END UP HERE?

NO WATER, NO GAS... BUT I DID.
YOU GOT USED TO THE PLACE.

I FIND MYSELF UNABLE TO GO AWAY.
I DON'T KNOW.

BUT NOW THAT HE'S GONE...

IT'S MY BROTHER'S, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

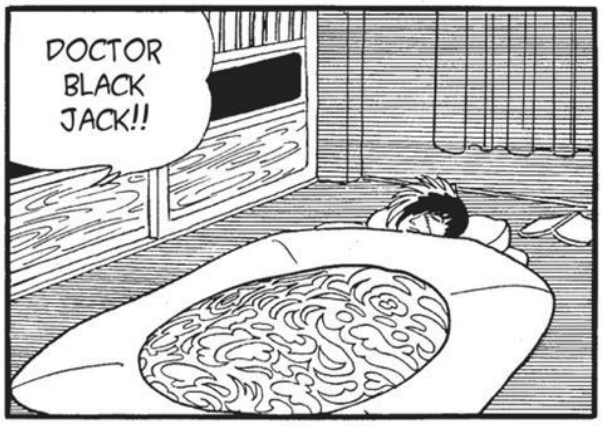

BAM
BAM

WHOOO

WHEEE

BAM
BAM
SORRY TA BOTHER YA
BAD FOOD? I'LL VISIT.
HE'S ROLL-ING IN PAIN!
M'BOY MASAYOSHI, HE'S BEEN VOMITING.
YOUR BOY, TOO? ANY FEVER?
DOCTOR SHIMIZU! MY BOY SAYS HIS HEAD HURTS, AND HE KEEPS VOMITING.
WE HAVE A CASE OF MASS FOOD POISONING!!
DOCTOR! MY AYAKO IS...
UH, NO. NO FEVER ...
DOCTOR! THE WIFE AND KIDS ARE PUKIN'!

THERE'S BEEN A MASS FOOD POISONING.
I COULD USE YOUR HELP.


DOCTOR BLACK JACK!!

BUT THAT'S INTERNAL MEDICINE. I'M A SURGEON.

COULD YOU TAKE A FEW ?
THERE'RE A FEW DOZEN PATIENTS.

HOW BAD IS IT ?!

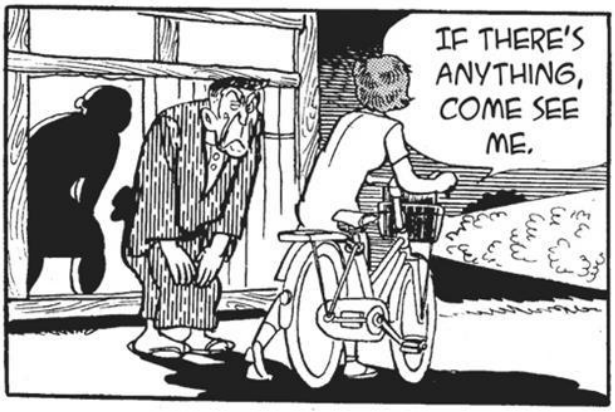
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WON'T HELP ME ?!
ポリポリ

WHILE YOU PRACTICE INTERNAL MEDICINE, RIGHT?
I JUST PLAY WITH KNIVES,

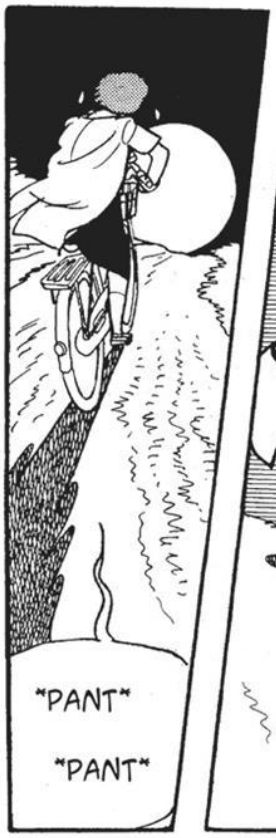
I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT I DON'T THINK I'D DO ANY GOOD.
DOCTOR, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! WHO CARES WHAT YOUR SPECIALTY IS?!

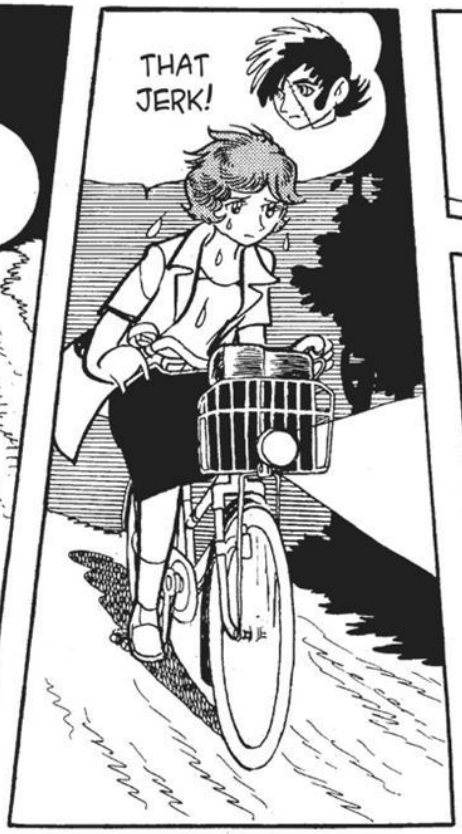
FINE, DON'T HELP ME !!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?!
LET'S GO. I'LL SEE ALL OF THEM.
EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT AND ATE THE PUDDINGS THAT ARRIVED ON TODAY'S FERRY GOT SICK!
URR
URRR
GECK
VWOOO
WHOO

KEEP HIM WARM AND RESTED.
DOCTOR, WHAT SHOULD I DO?


IF THERE'S ANYTHING, COME SEE ME.

SEE HOW IT GOES.
IF THE DIARRHEA IS BAD, GIVE HIM SOME TEA.


"PANT"
"PANT"

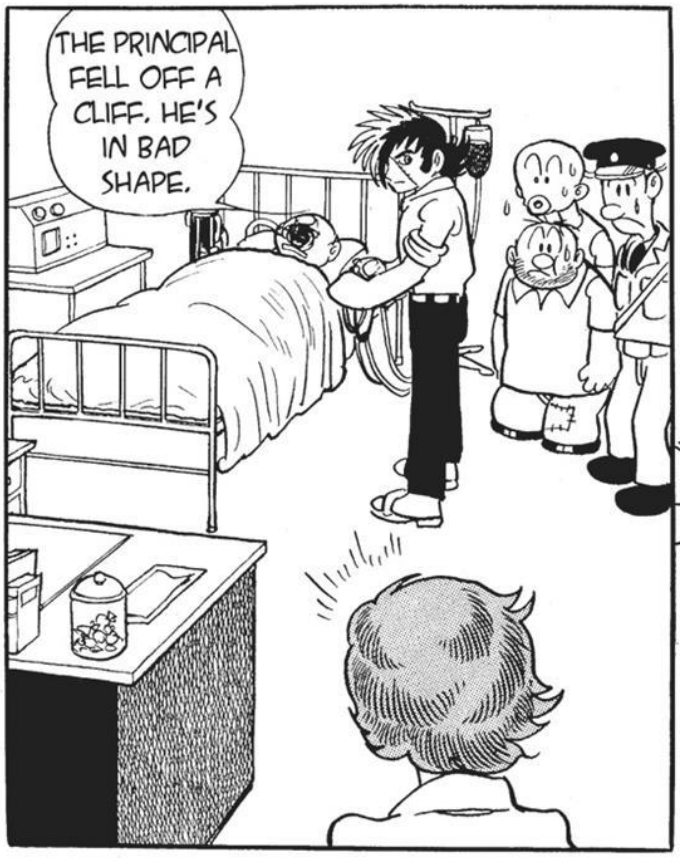

THAT JERK!

BARF

YES, JUST IN CASE...

URG
AHH
HE'S DIZZY?

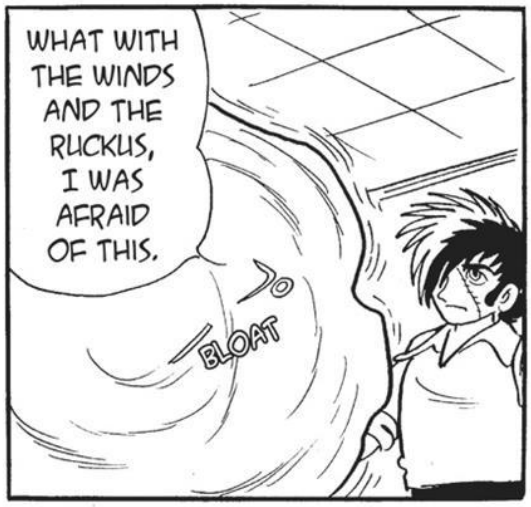
WHATTA NIGHT! YOU'RE ALL WE HAVE.
MR. PRIN-CI-PAL
I'LL GET SOME FROM NEXT VILLAGE ...
OK
THERE'S ONE... BUT HE'S NO USE.
IF WE ONLY HAD HELP.
WHERE'S YOUR USUAL SPIRIT, GONTA?
URG URR
AAAH OWWW
JUST GET IT ALL OUT.
RELAX, NO ONE'S GOING TO DIE.
"PANT" "PANT"
I'M GONNA COLLAPSE...


THE PRINCIPAL FELL OFF A CLIFF. HE'S IN BAD SHAPE.

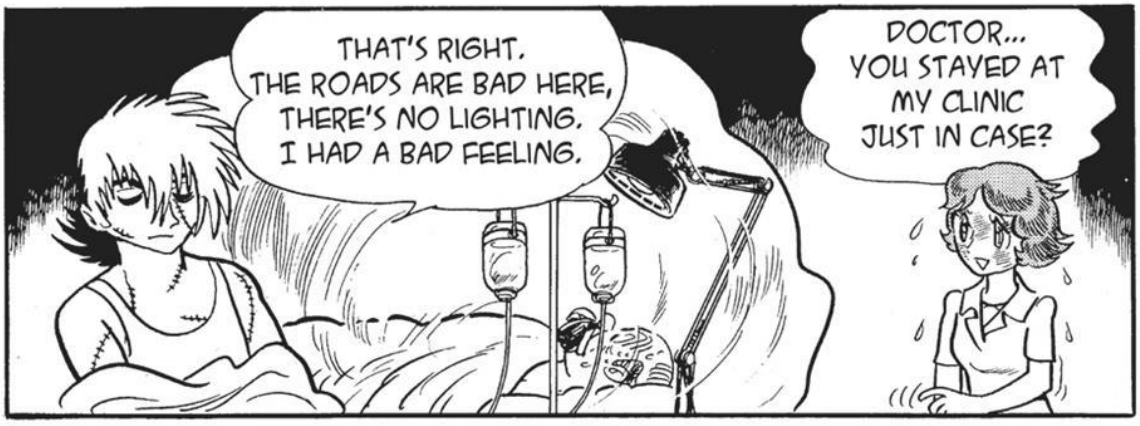
"PANT"
"PANT"
I BET THERE'LL BE A FEW MORE.

!

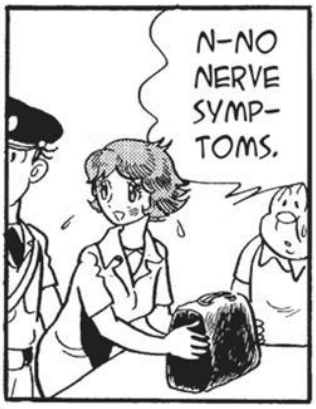
I JUST SAW HIM ON THE PATH.
WH-WHEN ?!


WHAT WITH THE WINDS AND THE RUCKUS, I WAS AFRAID OF THIS.
BLOAT

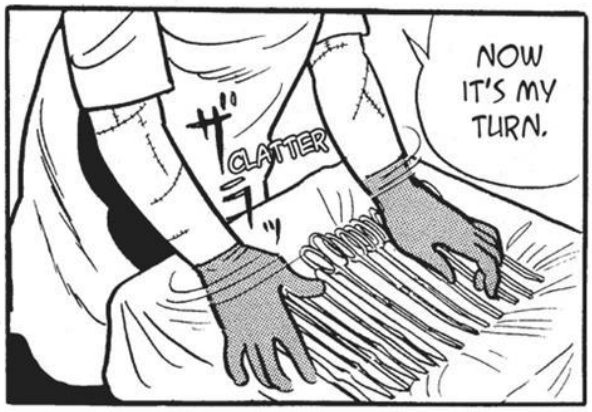
A LOT OF INTERNAL BLEEDING. IT MUST BE SOME ORGAN.
THE GALE MUST'VE SWEPT HIM OFF IT, BICYCLE AND ALL.


THAT'S RIGHT. THE ROADS ARE BAD HERE, THERE'S NO LIGHTING. I HAD A BAD FEELING.
DOCTOR... YOU STAYED AT MY CLINIC JUST IN CASE?

BE GLAD IT'S NOT BOTULISM.
THEN IT'S JUST FOOD POISONING.


N-NO NERVE SYMPTOMS.

ANY VISION OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENT?
HOW ARE THEY ?

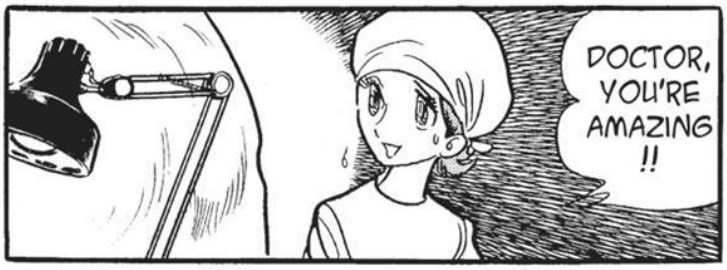

ザラッ
CLATTER
NOW IT'S MY TURN.

THEY'LL BE FINE IN A DAY OR TWO.

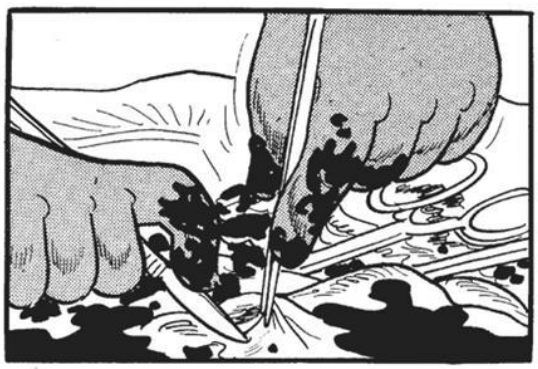
NO!
YOU GET SOME REST.

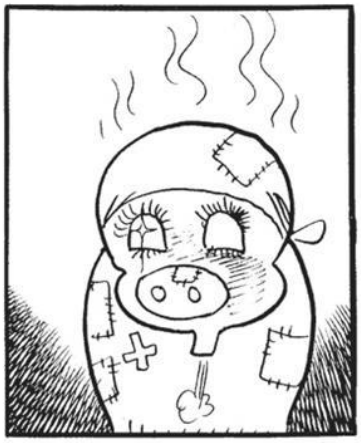
I KNOW HOW TO... DISINFECT ...
YOU A SURGEON ?
LET ME HELP.
WATCH HOW WELL THIS SCALPEL CUTS.
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
FSK
GLUB
SPLIT
SHK

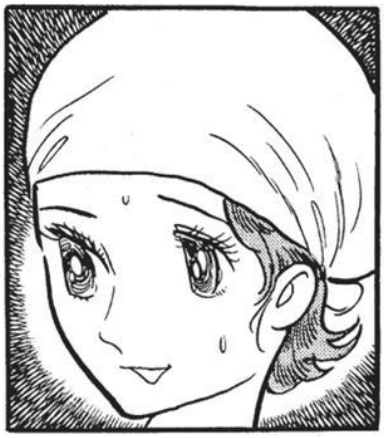
THERE'S A GASH IN THE ILEUM... IT MUST HAVE HIT AGAINST A ROCK WHEN HE FELL.

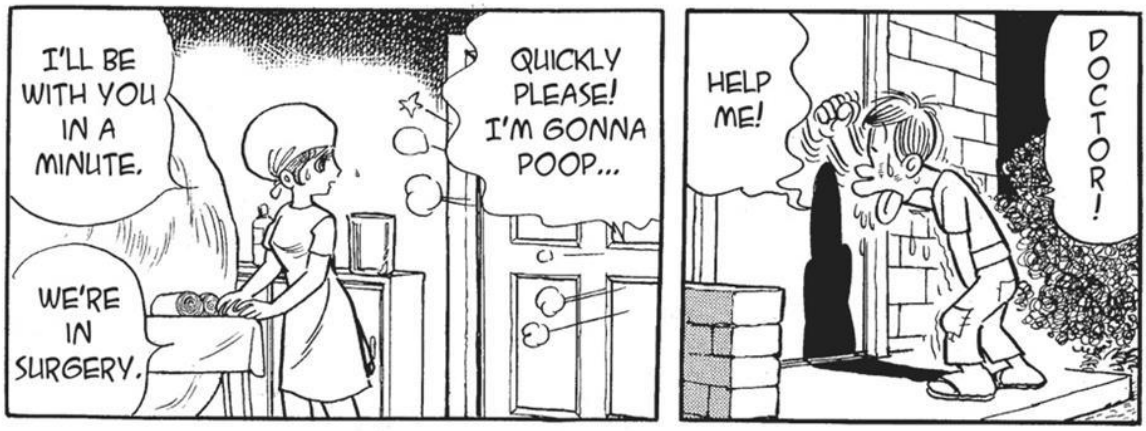

DOCTOR, YOU'RE AMAZING !!

I CAN SAVE HIM!








I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE.
WE'RE IN SURGERY.
QUICKLY PLEASE! I'M GONNA POOP...

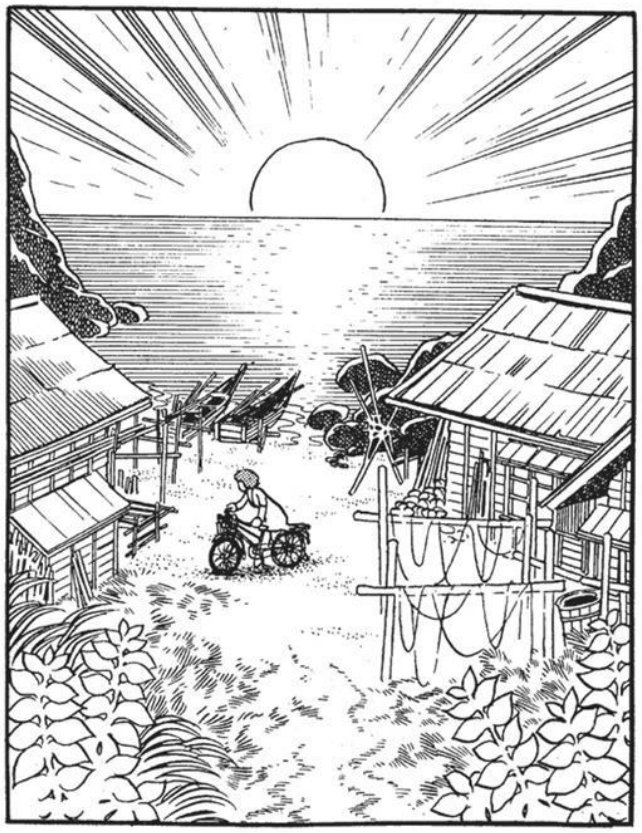
HELP ME!
DOCTOR!

DARN...

SPLAT

SER-GERY?!

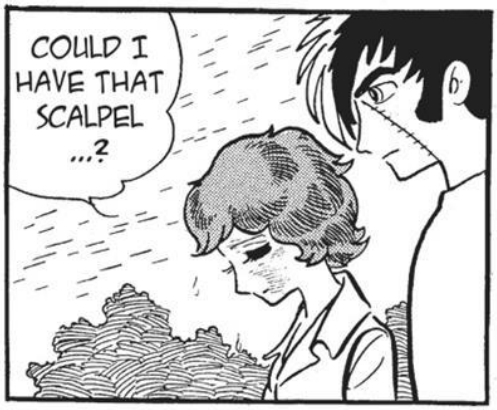
SHE'S GETTING BETTER, DOCTOR.
IS THE DIARRHEA STILL BAD?
DON'T WORRY.

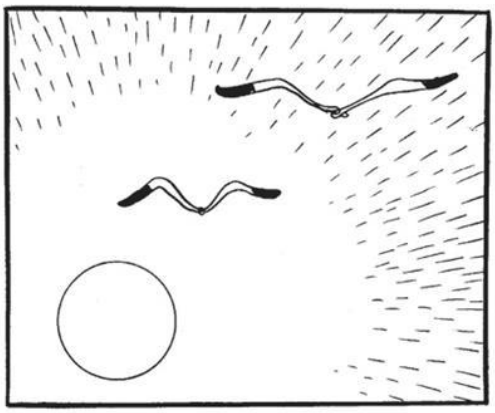


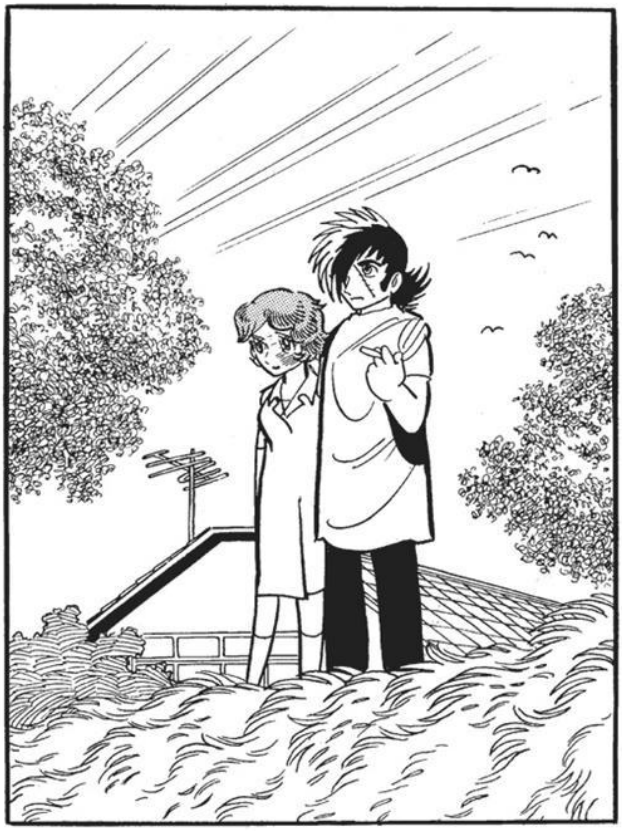
HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN IKUO.
WILL THAT DOCTOR REPLACE YOUR BROTHER?

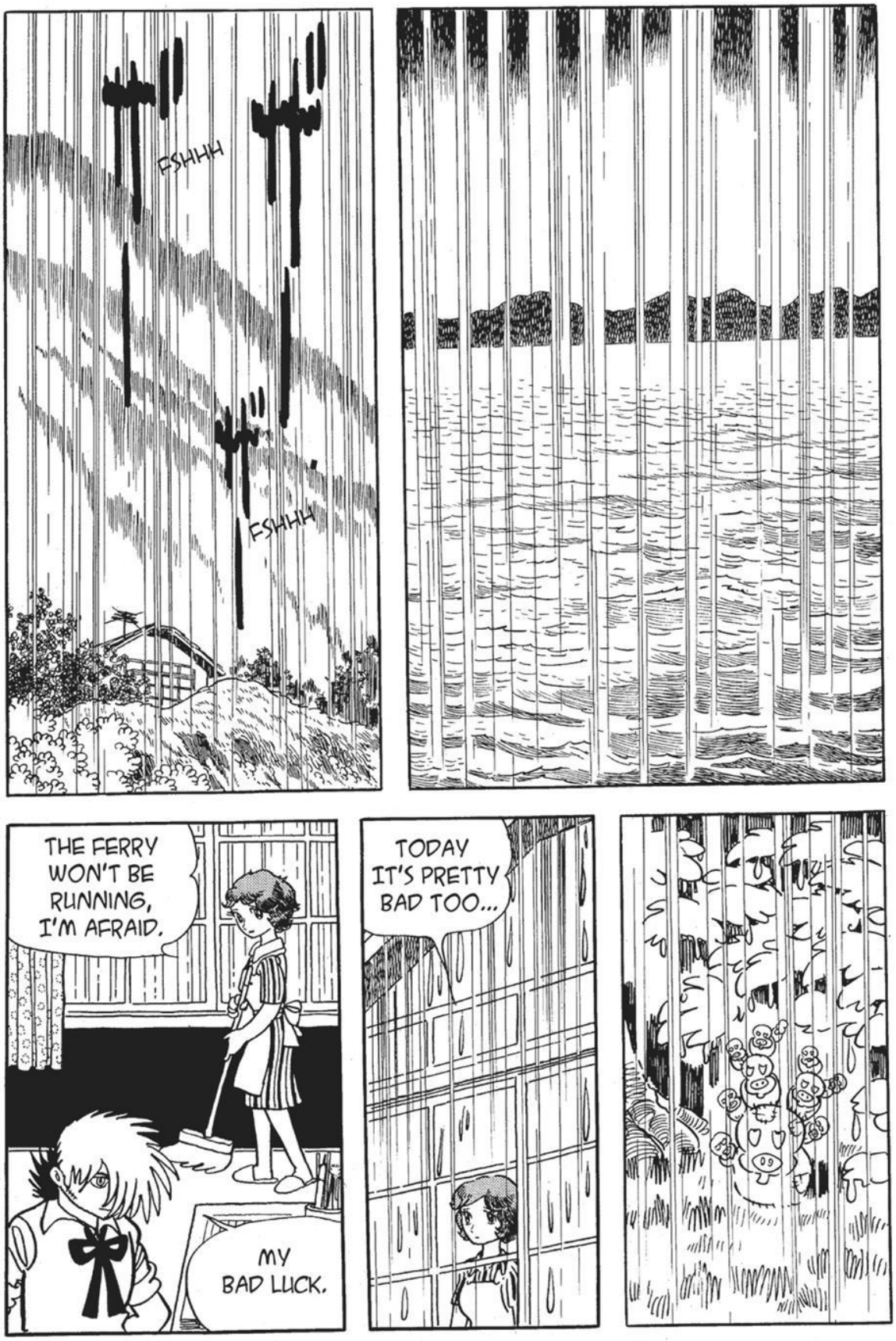
YES, A SURGEON HAD TO OPERATE ON HIM. HE'LL BE FINE.
IS IT TRUE ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL?

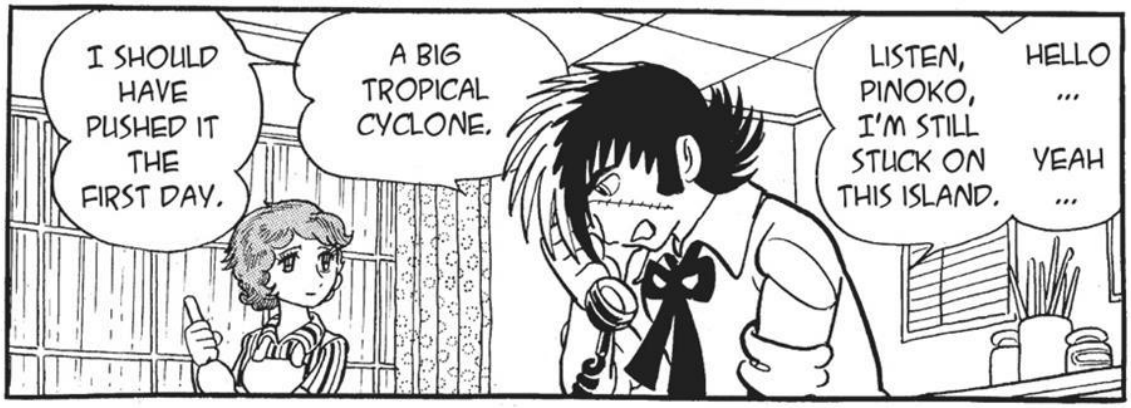
COCKADOODLE DOO


COULD I HAVE THAT SCALPEL ...?

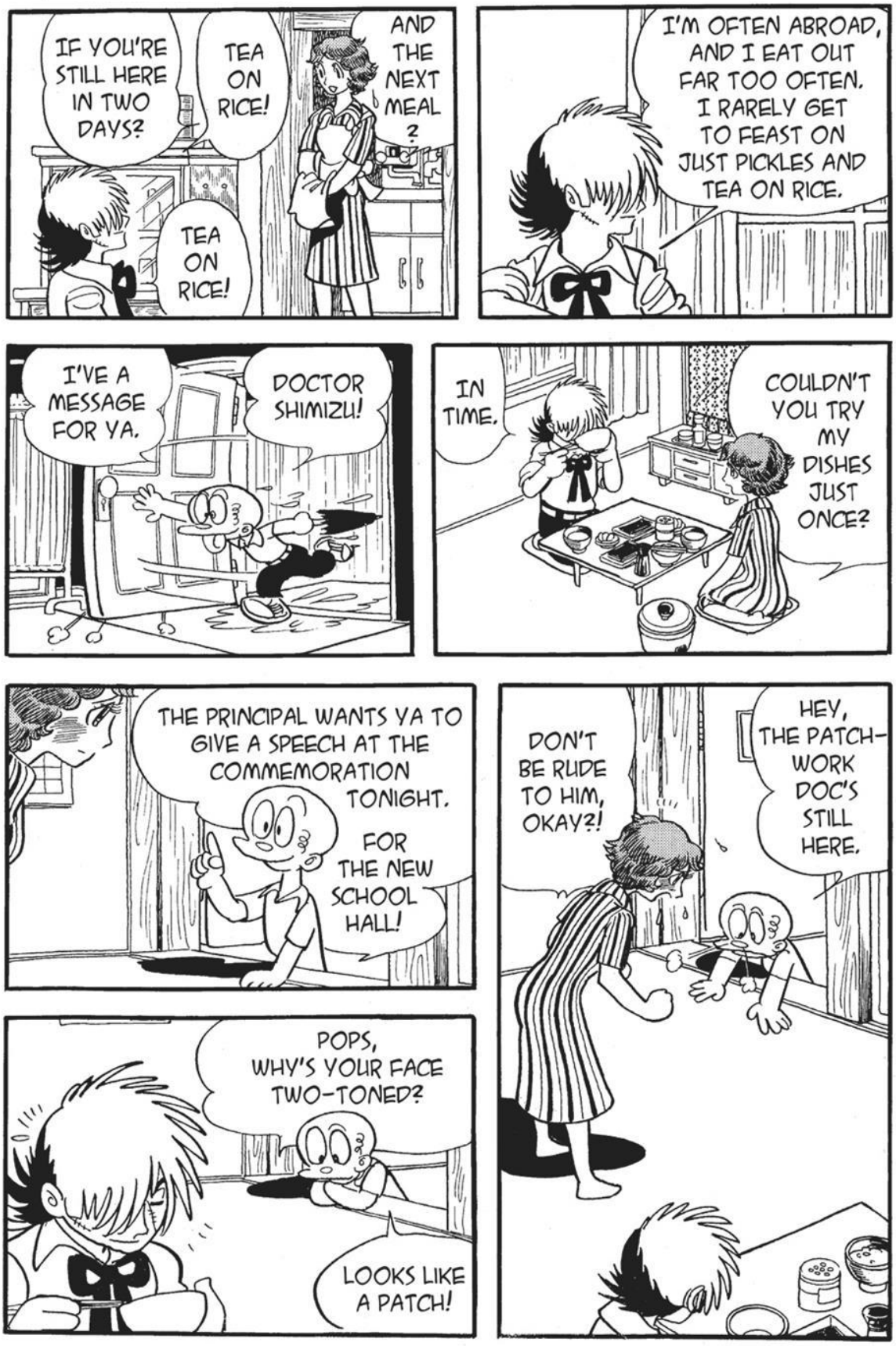


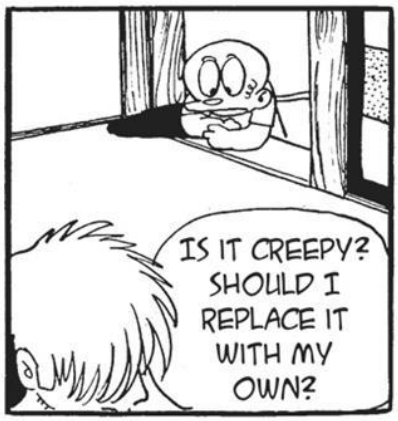



FSHHH
FSHHH
THE FERRY WON'T BE RUNNING, I'M AFRAID.
MY BAD LUCK.
TODAY IT'S PRETTY BAD TOO...



NOTE: TEA ON RICE IS A HOMELY MEAL THAT REQUIRES MINIMAL COOKING SKILLS.

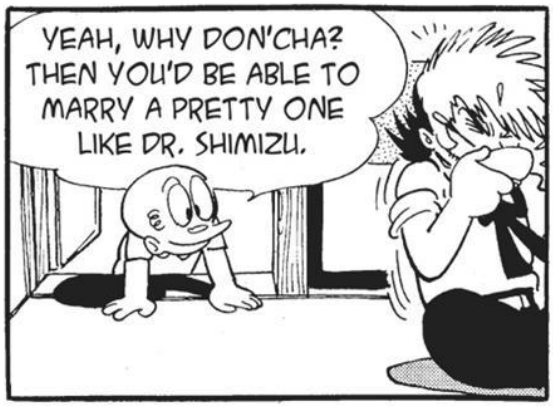

IF YOU'RE STILL HERE IN TWO DAYS?
TEA ON RICE!
AND THE NEXT MEAL?
TEA ON RICE!
I'M OFTEN ABROAD, AND I EAT OUT FAR TOO OFTEN. I RARELY GET TO FEAST ON JUST PICKLES AND TEA ON RICE.
I'VE A MESSAGE FOR YA.
DOCTOR SHIMIZU!
IN TIME.
COULDN'T YOU TRY MY DISHES JUST ONCE?
THE PRINCIPAL WANTS YA TO GIVE A SPEECH AT THE COMMEMORATION TONIGHT.
FOR THE NEW SCHOOL HALL!
DON'T BE RUDE TO HIM, OKAY?!
HEY, THE PATCH-WORK DOC'S STILL HERE.
POPS, WHY'S YOUR FACE TWO-TONED?
LOOKS LIKE A PATCH!


IS IT CREEPY? SHOULD I REPLACE IT WITH MY OWN?

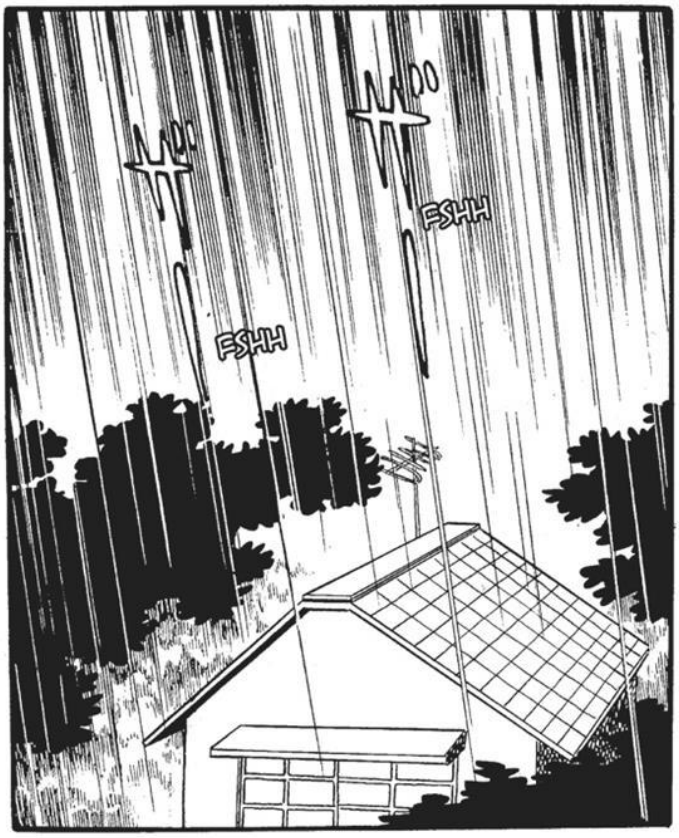
YOU WANNA KNOW, KID? IT CAME FROM A SKIN DONOR.

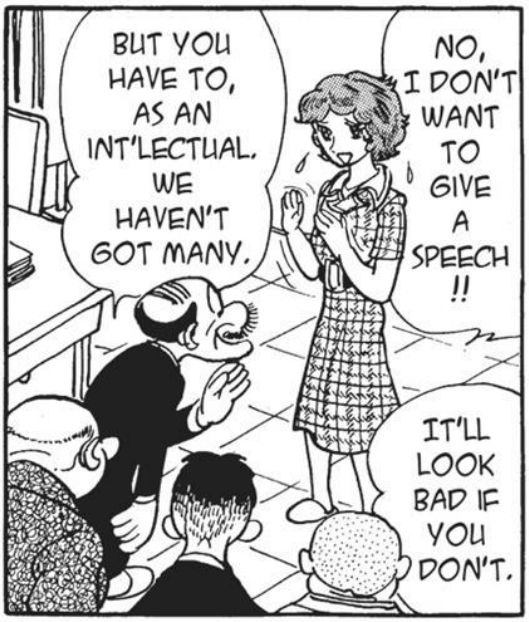
STOP IT!!
YOU BRAT

SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND GO HOME!

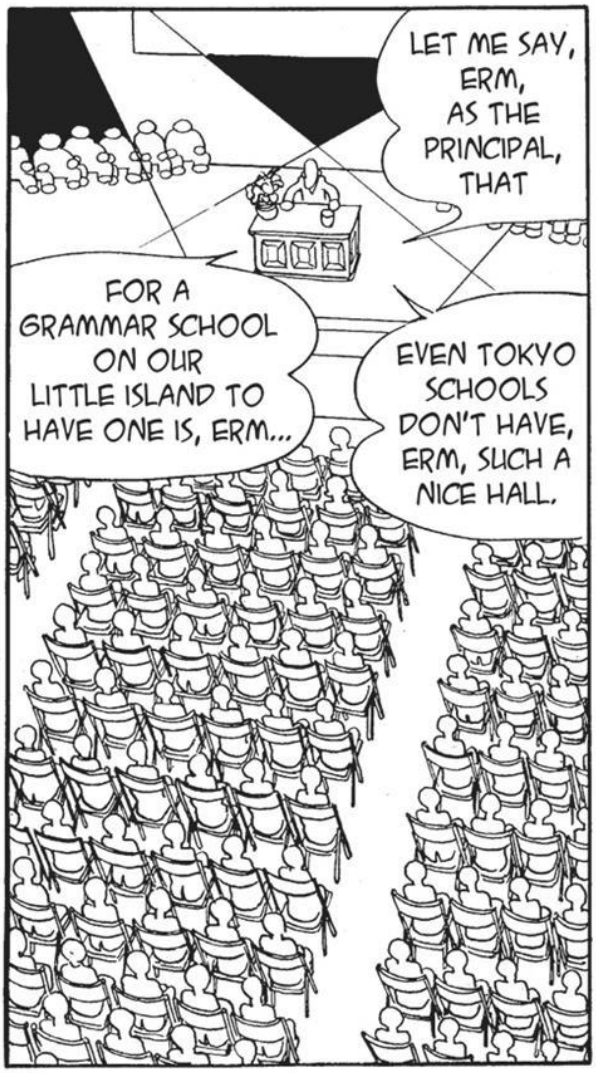

YEAH, WHY DON'CHA? THEN YOU'D BE ABLE TO MARRY A PRETTY ONE LIKE DR. SHIMIZU.

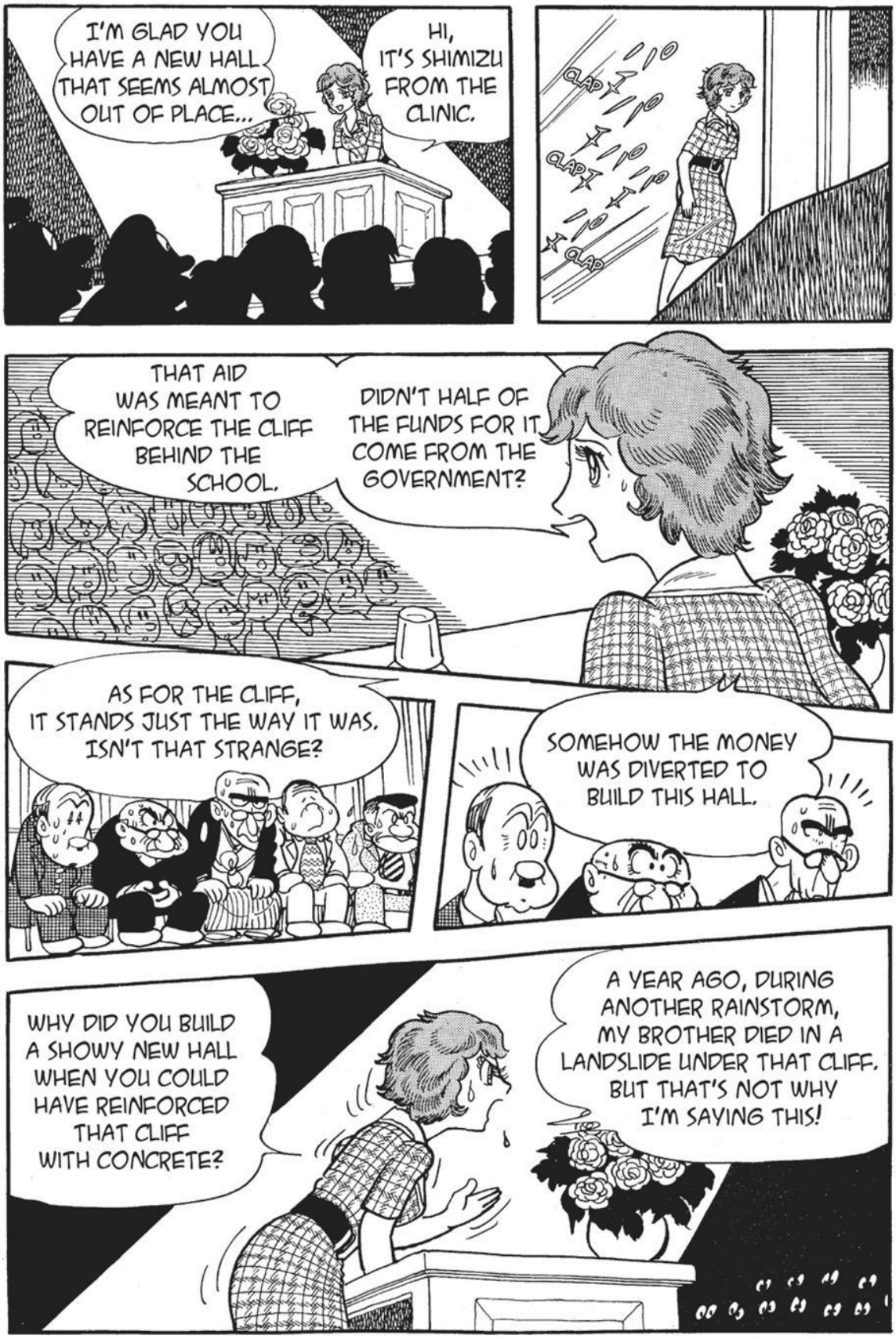
I JUST HOPE NO ONE GETS HURT.
THE WEATHER KEEPS GETTING WORSE.


FSHH
FSHH


BUT YOU HAVE TO, AS AN INT'LECTUAL. WE HAVEN'T GOT MANY.
NO, I DON'T WANT TO GIVE A SPEECH !!
IT'LL LOOK BAD IF YOU DON'T.

ARE YOU SURE ?
JUST A FEW WORDS.
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY WILL DO.


LET ME SAY, ERM, AS THE PRINCIPAL, THAT
FOR A GRAMMAR SCHOOL ON OUR LITTLE ISLAND TO HAVE ONE IS, ERM...
EVEN TOKYO SCHOOLS DON'T HAVE, ERM, SUCH A NICE HALL.


I'M GLAD YOU HAVE A NEW HALL THAT SEEMS ALMOST OUT OF PLACE...
HI, IT'S SHIMIZU FROM THE CLINIC.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT AID WAS MEANT TO REINFORCE THE CLIFF BEHIND THE SCHOOL.
DIDN'T HALF OF THE FUNDS FOR IT COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT?
AS FOR THE CLIFF, IT STANDS JUST THE WAY IT WAS. ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
SOMEHOW THE MONEY WAS DIVERTED TO BUILD THIS HALL.
WHY DID YOU BUILD A SHOWY NEW HALL WHEN YOU COULD HAVE REINFORCED THAT CLIFF WITH CONCRETE?
A YEAR AGO, DURING ANOTHER RAINSTORM, MY BROTHER DIED IN A LANDSLIDE UNDER THAT CLIFF. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M SAYING THIS!

THAT CLIFF COULD CRUMBLE AGAIN AT ANY MOMENT, AND YOUR CHILDREN WALK UNDER IT EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL, THINKING IT'S A SHORTCUT! WHAT COULD BE MORE DANGEROUS?
落成
RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE, ADMINISTRATORS! PLEASE FIX THAT CLIFF!
GIVEN THE WEATHER, I'M WORRIED THERE'LL BE ANOTHER ACCIDENT...
FSHH

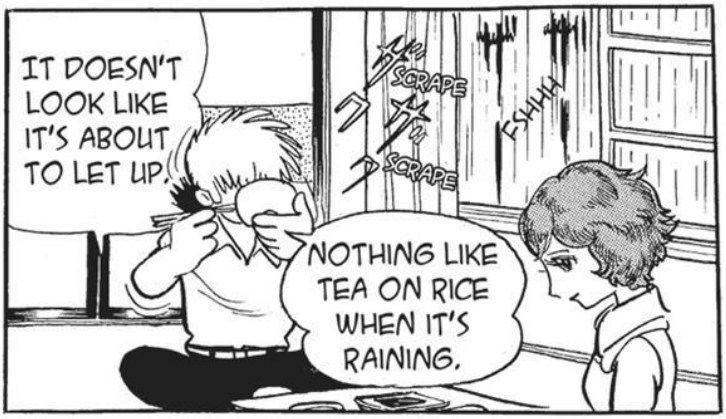
OH ...!
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
FSHHH
WEEP
I MISTOOK HIM FOR MY BROTHER
OOPS
IKUO...
I'M ALL ALONE OUT HERE...

BROTHER

I'M SO TIRED ...

OR IS IT TOO LATE? DO I LOVE HIM HEAD OVER HEELS ?
I THINK I'M READY TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM ...

IKUO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM? I FEEL SO SAFE WHEN HE'S NEAR ME.
HE'S A STRONG PERSON. HE WATCHES OVER ME WHEN I'M ALONE.

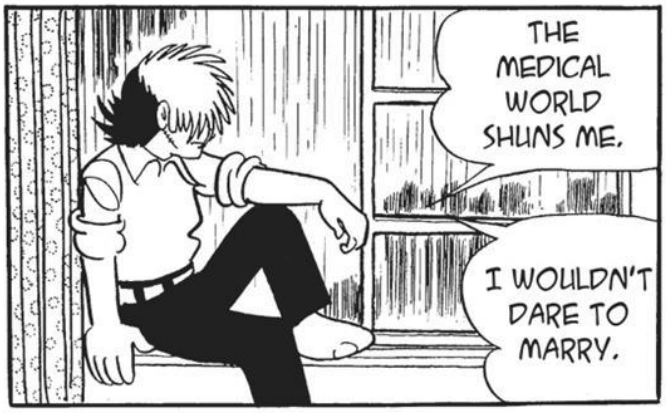

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO LET UP.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
FSHHH
NOTHING LIKE TEA ON RICE WHEN IT'S RAINING.

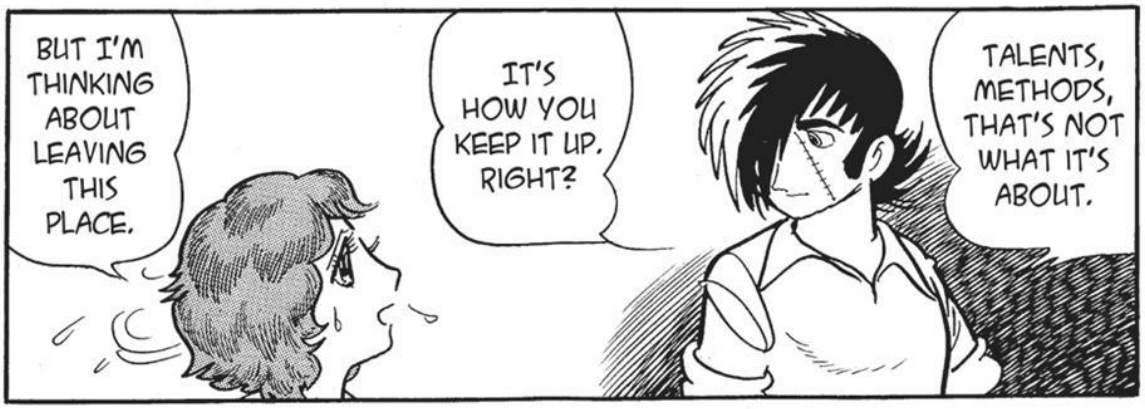
PLEASE... ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE.

BUT YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD DOCTOR.
NOT AS GOOD AS YOU.
SEEING KIDS ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...
I'M NOT SO SURE ...

I'M AN OUT-LAW.

WHY AREN'T YOU MAR-RIED?


THE MEDICAL WORLD SHUNS ME.
I WOULDN'T DARE TO MARRY.

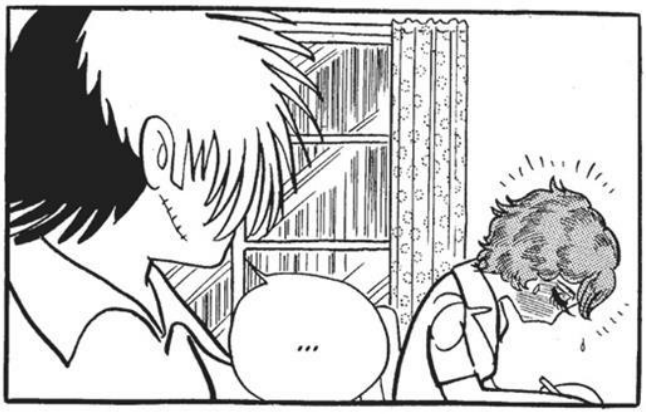

BUT I'M THINKING ABOUT LEAVING THIS PLACE.
IT'S HOW YOU KEEP IT UP, RIGHT?
TALENTS, METHODS, THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

I'D LIKE TO LEAVE WITH YOU ...
WHAT ?

I...

WHY ?

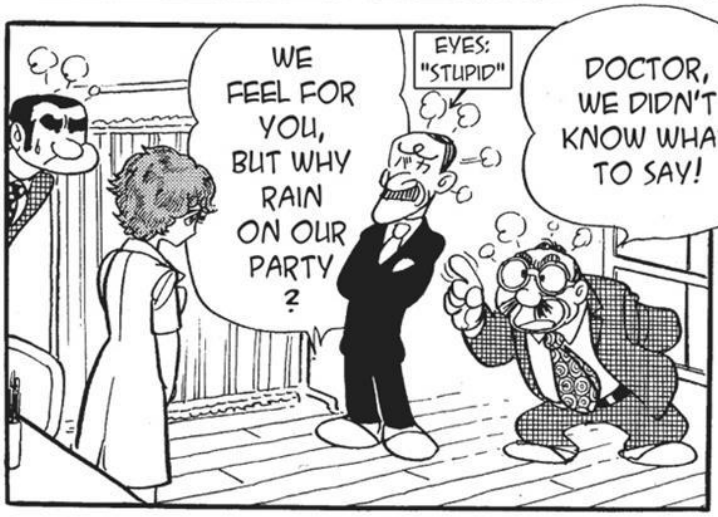
FOOL-ISH ...
THAT'S FOOLISH !

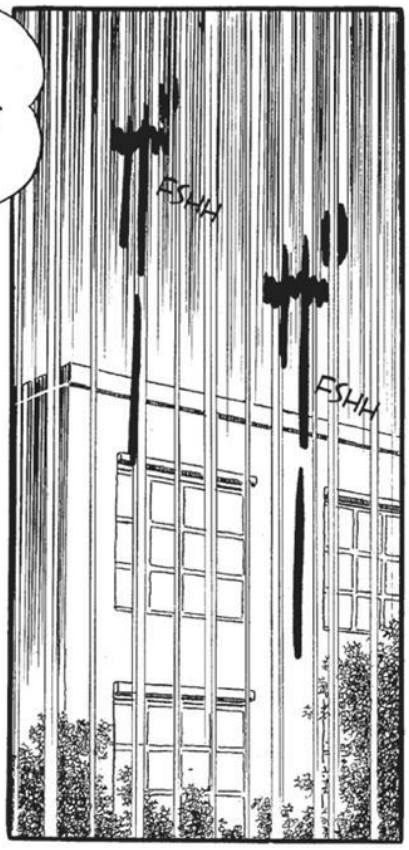

...

LOOKS LIKE I'VE BROUGHT YOU BAD LUCK.

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGET ME.

IT'S NOT FOOLISH.
IT IS NOT !!
I MEAN IT.

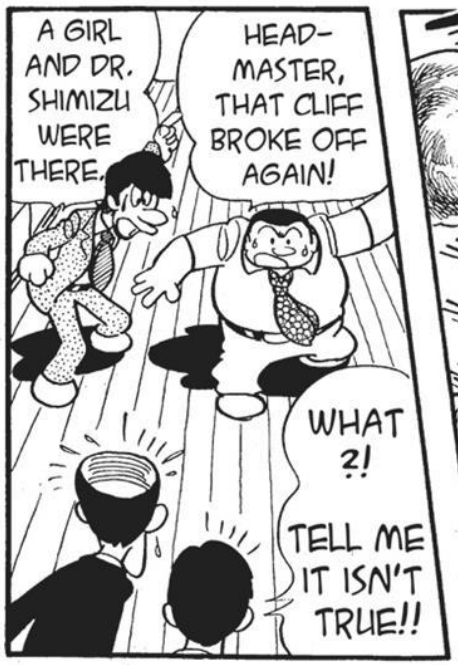

WE FEEL FOR YOU, BUT WHY RAIN ON OUR PARTY ?
EYES: "STUPID"
DOCTOR, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

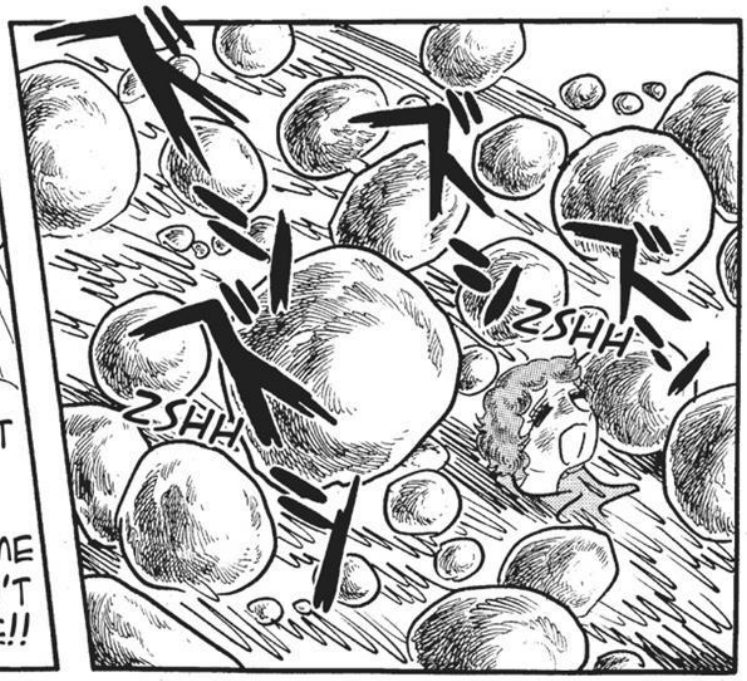

FSHH
FSHH

BUT...
IT CAN'T CRUMBLE MORE THAN IT HAS!
THE CLIFF IS ONE THING. YOU WENT TOO FAR.

YIKES, IT'S THE DOCTOR.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WALK THERE!
IT'S DAN-GEROUS.
NOT THAT WAY. IT ISN'T SAFE.
YOU STUPID... HURRY AND FINISH!
GO OUT THE FRONT, HEAR ME ?
WAS THAT ...
UH-OH, THOSE KIDS!!
AIEE
RUMBLE
AIEE

GET AWAY FROM THERE, QUICK!
ROAR
WATCH OUT!
RUMBLE
ROAR
AAAH!!
LET'S GO!!


A GIRL AND DR. SHIMIZU WERE THERE.
HEAD-MASTER, THAT CLIFF BROKE OFF AGAIN!
WHAT ?!
TELL ME IT ISN'T TRUE!!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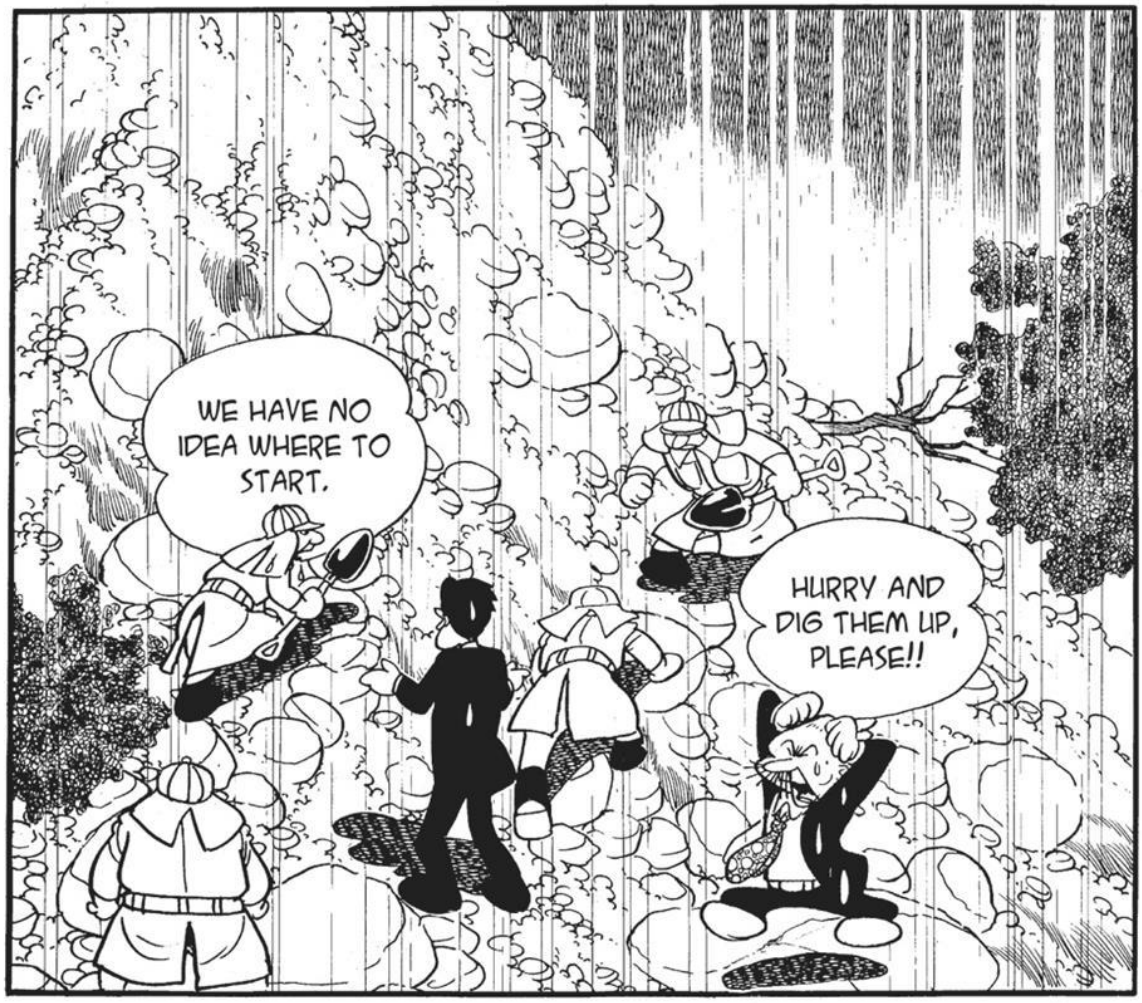
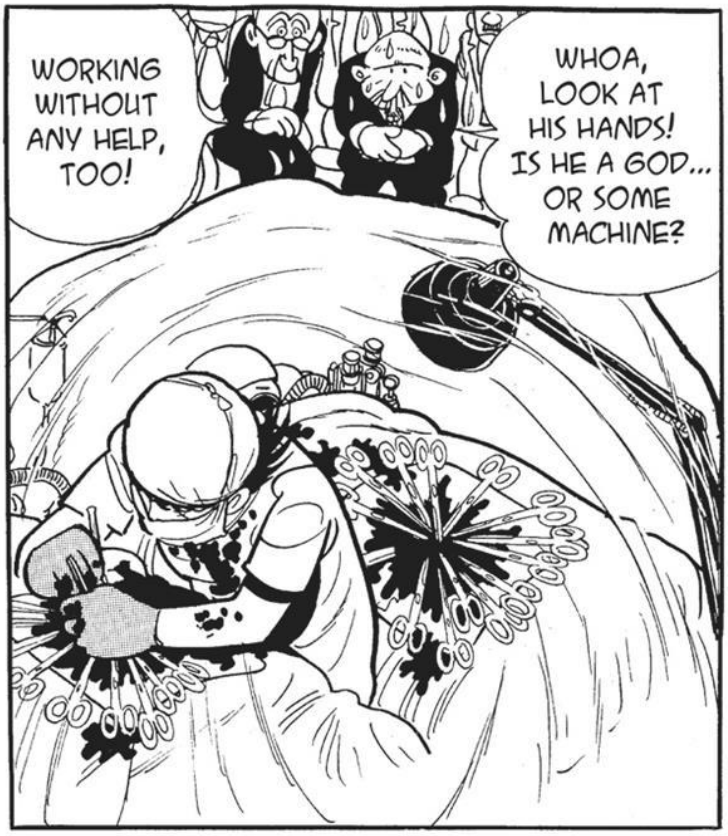

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO START.
HURRY AND DIG THEM UP, PLEASE!!

HEY! WE FOUND ONE OF THEM!
MAKE THAT BOTH!
I NEED DONORS, BLOOD TYPES O AND A!
PLEASE SAVE MY GIRL!
IF THEY DIE, I'M DONE FOR.
THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
HE'S GONNA OPERATE ON BOTH OF THEM? AT ONCE? NO WAY...
MAKE ROOM FOR MY ASEPTIC TENT.
BLOAT

MR. MAYOR, THEY HAVE
FIVE RUPTURED ORGANS EACH.


WHOA, LOOK AT HIS HANDS! IS HE A GOD... OR SOME MACHINE?
WORKING WITHOUT ANY HELP, TOO!

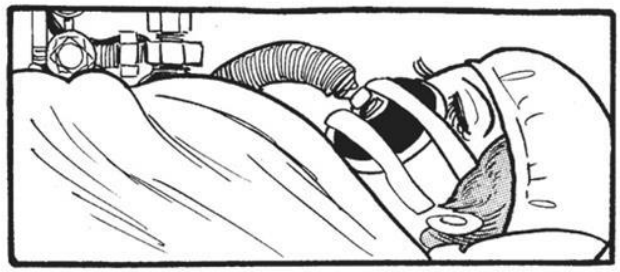
I'M CHARGING THE VILLAGE 100 MILLION.
GACK

IT'S ONLY FAIR IF YOU ASK ME.
HM?!

OUR VILLAGE DOESN'T HAVE—
USE THE MONEY DUE TO THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE HALL.

SHE HAD A DEFECT!

SHE COULD NEVER SURVIVE AN OP.



THESE CORONARY ARTERIES ARE TOO THIN...

NO VISITORS ALLOWED!
WHO KNOWS?

AND? WILL THEY LIVE?
I'M DONE. YOU CAN GO HOME.

DID YOU SAVE THE GIRL?
YES, SOME-HOW.

DOCTOR BLACK JACK...

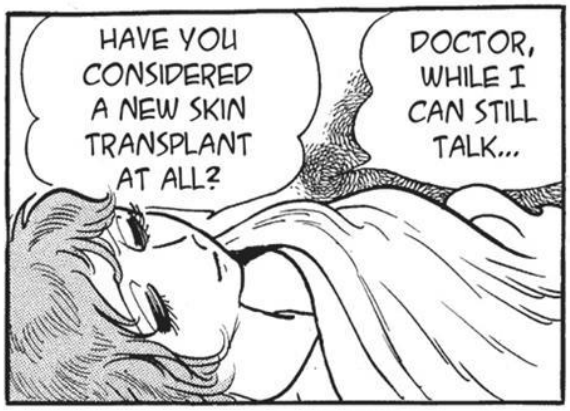
DON'T TALK THAT WAY! FIND THE WILL TO LIVE!
YOU KNOW I FEARED AS MUCH.

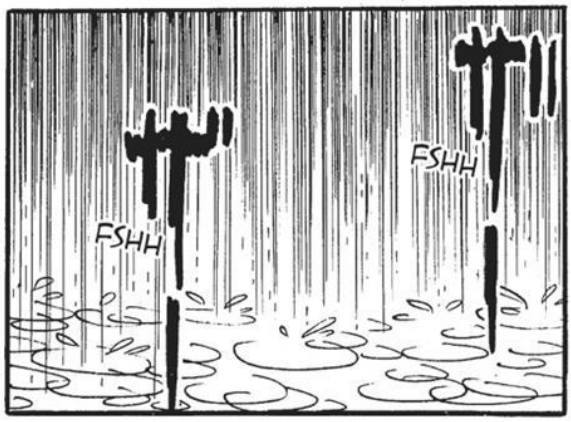
BUT I'M TOO WEAK... YES?
WE'LL PART SOON.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
PHEW ...

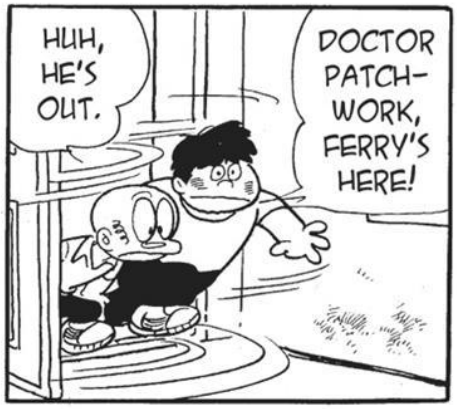
HOW ELSE CAN I ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, DOCTOR?
I'D LOVE YOU... TO USE MY FACE.

AH...
IT'S NOT OVER YET !!

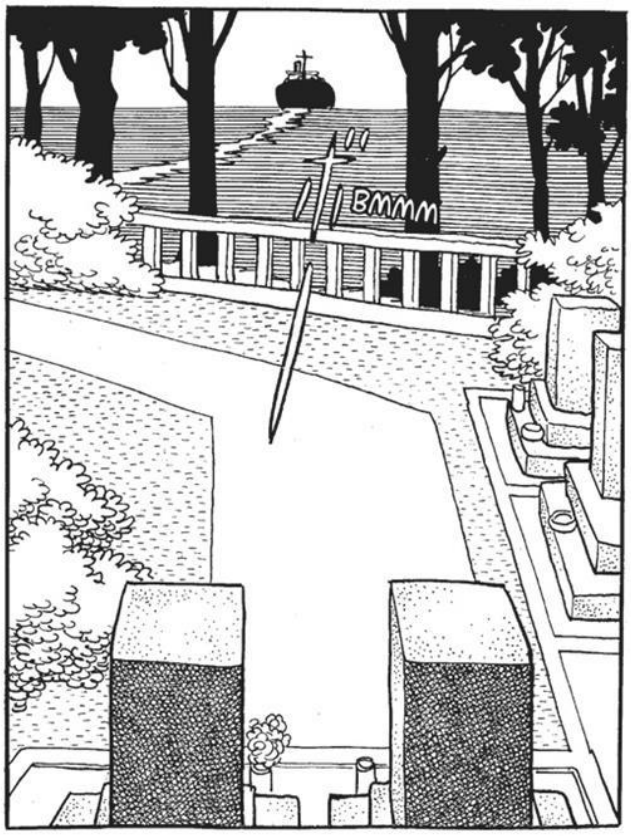

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A NEW SKIN TRANSPLANT AT ALL?
DOCTOR, WHILE I CAN STILL TALK...


FSHH
FSHH

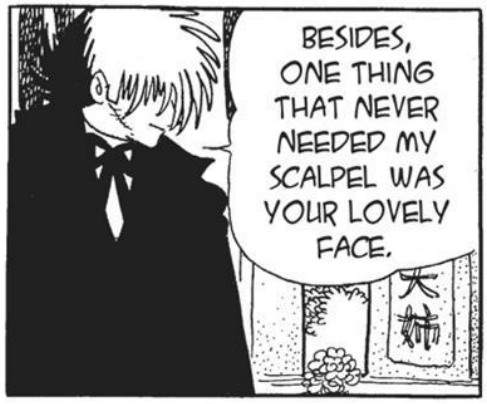
...


HUH, HE'S OUT.
DOCTOR PATCH-WORK, FERRY'S HERE!

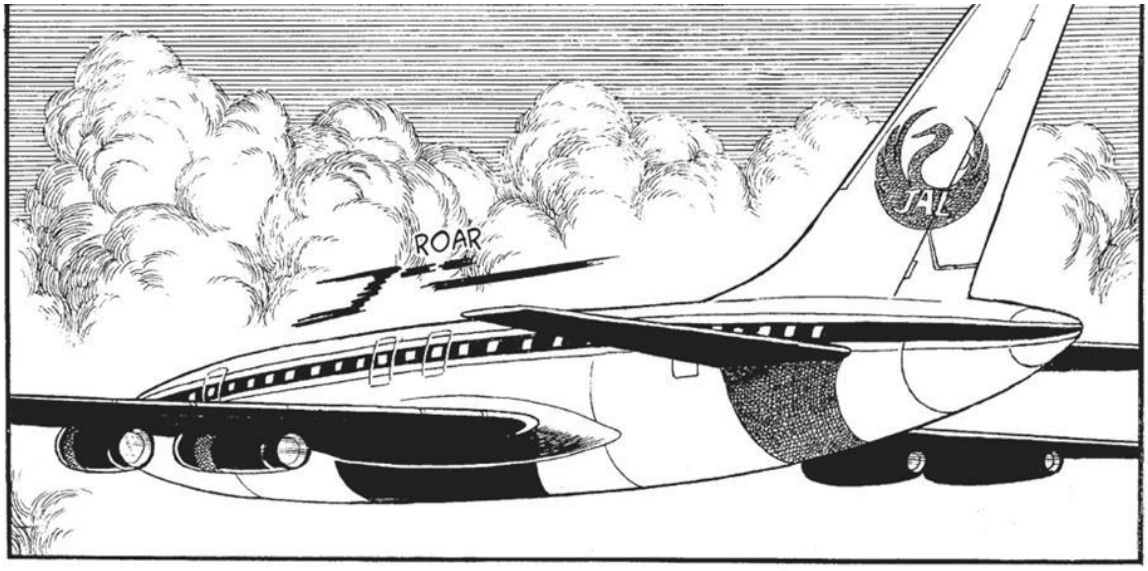
YOU THINK DOCTOR SHIMIZU LOVED HIM, GONTA?
MUST BE SAYING GOODBYE TO HER.


BMMM

SORRY I COULDN'T OBLIGE... THIS PIECE OF SKIN IS DEAR TO ME.


BESIDES, ONE THING THAT NEVER NEEDED MY SCALPEL WAS YOUR LOVELY FACE.

A BODY TURNING TO STONE


ROAR
JAL

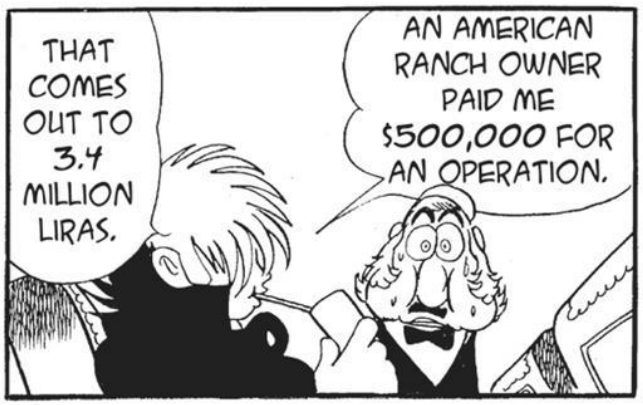
THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AWARD A MILLION LIRAS FOR SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT.

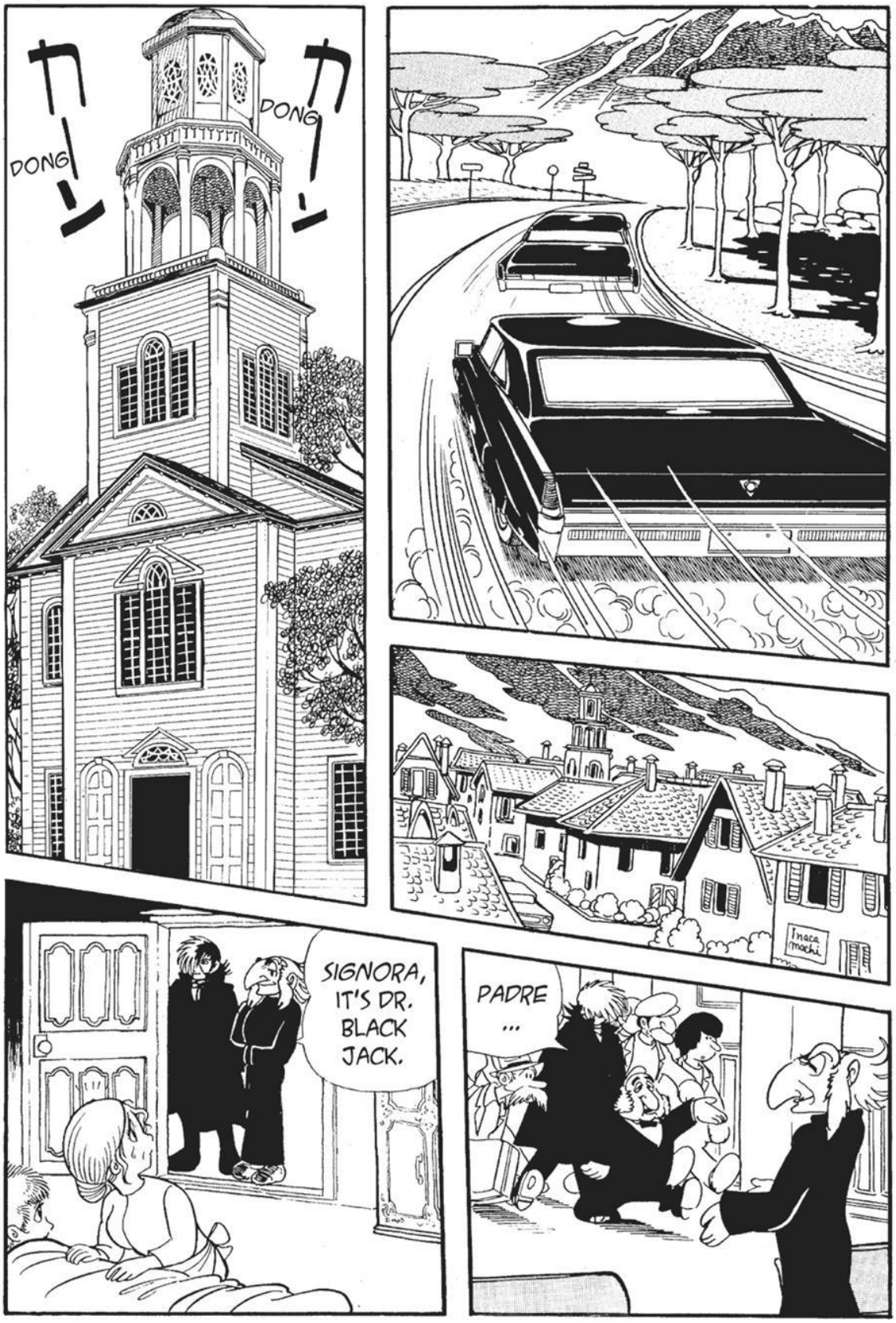
LET ME INFORM YOU IN ADVANCE

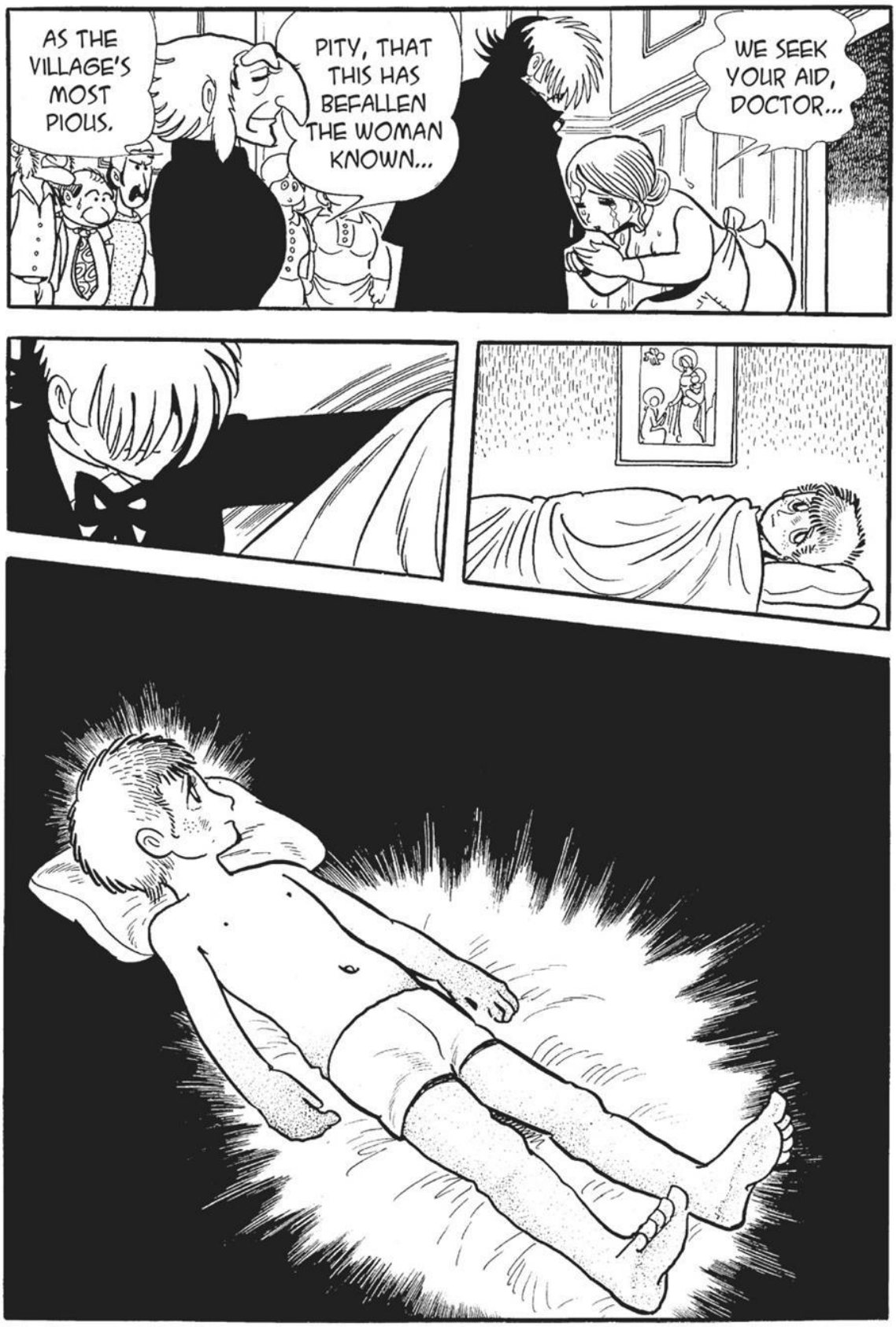
I GUESS THAT'S GOOD FOR A NEARLY INSOLVENT NATION.

I SAID A MILLION LIRAS!
THAT'S NOT MUCH.

...
JAL

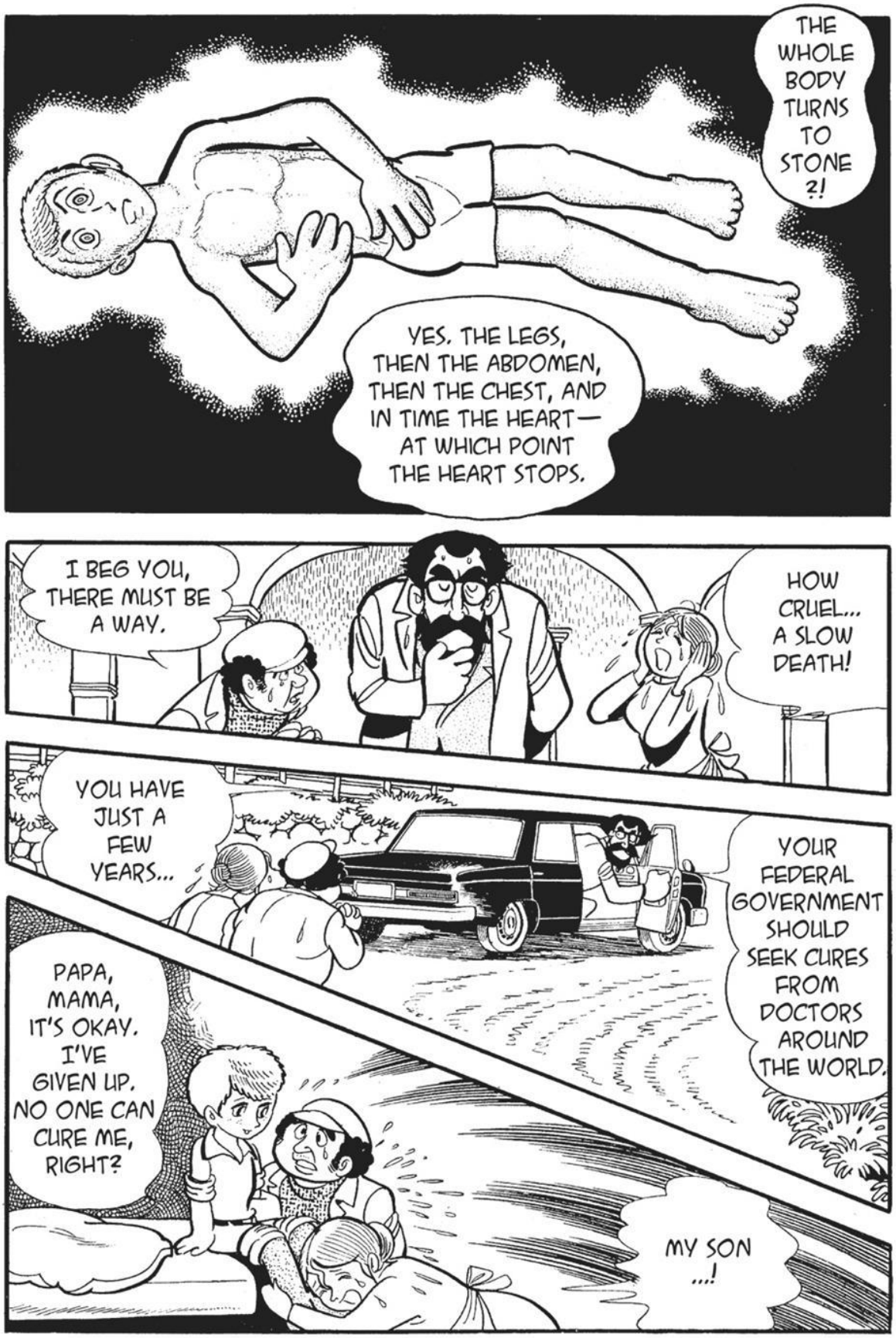

THAT COMES OUT TO 3.4 MILLION LIRAS.
AN AMERICAN RANCH OWNER PAID ME $500,000 FOR AN OPERATION.


カーン
DONG
カーン
DONG
Inaca machi
SIGNORA, IT'S DR. BLACK JACK.
PADRE ...


AS THE VILLAGE'S MOST PIOUS.
PITY, THAT THIS HAS BEFALLEN THE WOMAN KNOWN...
WE SEEK YOUR AID, DOCTOR...

"SOB"
DOCTOR, YOU'RE FROM JAPAN, AREN'T YOU?
I LOVE JAPAN...
DOES IT HURT?
I DO FEEL IT.
NO.
AND HERE ?
NO.
IN 6 MONTHS, BOTH HIS LEGS' MUSCLES EXHIBITED SIGNS OF HARDENING.
HIS LEGS BEGAN TO GO NUMB 3 YEARS AGO.

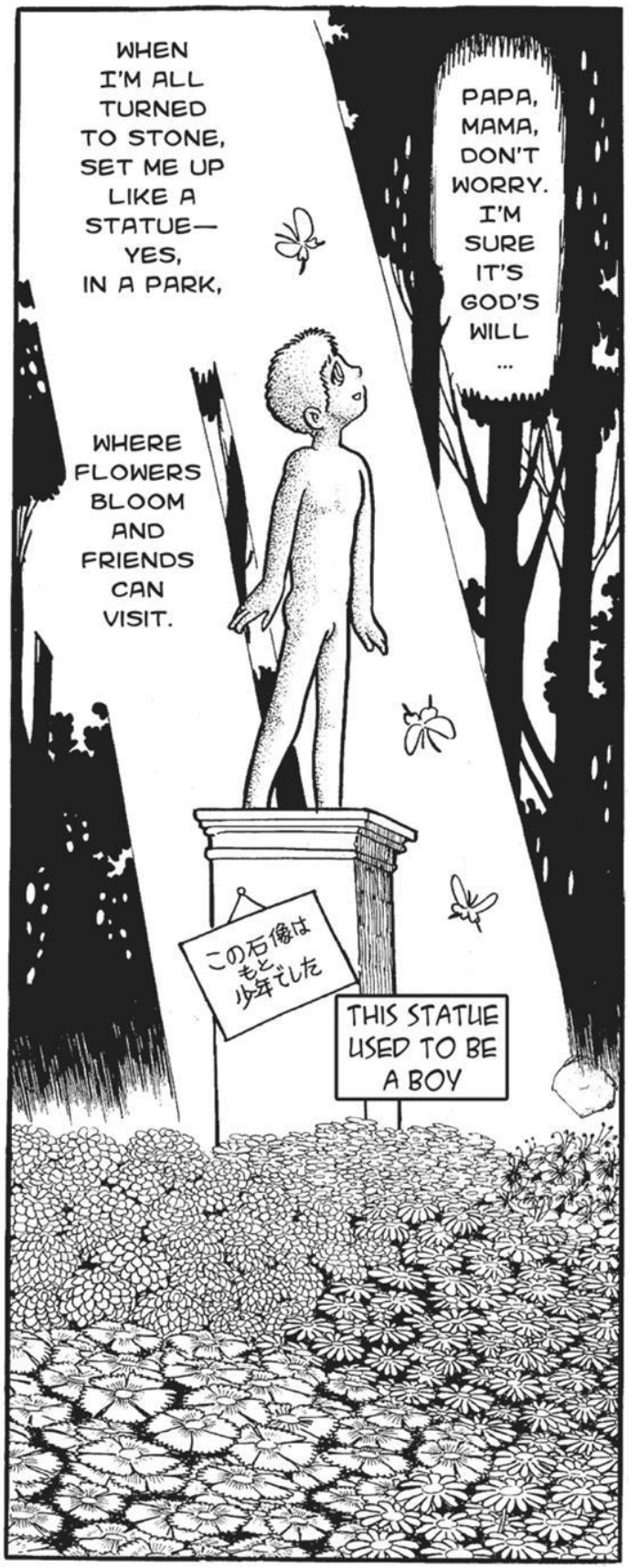
MAMA, I'M TURNING TO STONE, I'M SLOWLY TURNING TO STONE!
THEN, HE COULD NOT MOVE THEM; LIKE STONES THEY WERE.
SEEK GOD'S AID. PRAY TO HIM EVERY DAY, FROM YOUR HEART.
FATHER ...
FROM ROME, GENEVA, AND LONDON CAME RENOWNED DOCTORS. YET...
IT'S NOT WITHIN THE POWER OF MEDICINE AS IT STANDS.
YOUR SON HAS A RARE MALADY.
IN PROGRESSIVE OSSIFYING MYOSITIS, MUSCLE SLOWLY TURNS TO BONE.


THE WHOLE BODY TURNS TO STONE ?!
YES. THE LEGS, THEN THE ABDOMEN, THEN THE CHEST, AND IN TIME THE HEART— AT WHICH POINT THE HEART STOPS.
I BEG YOU, THERE MUST BE A WAY.
HOW CRUEL... A SLOW DEATH!
YOU HAVE JUST A FEW YEARS...
YOUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK CURES FROM DOCTORS AROUND THE WORLD.
PAPA, MAMA, IT'S OKAY. I'VE GIVEN UP. NO ONE CAN CURE ME, RIGHT?
MY SON ...!

AS MANY OF HIS WISHES WHILE HE LIVES.
ALL I CAN DO NOW IS TRY TO GRANT ...

WHAT? ANOTHER DOCTOR?
BEER
ANOTHER QUACK, NO DOUBT! DAMNED IF HE CAN CURE MY SON.

PLEASE, MUST YOU DWELL IN THAT PUB?
HOW CAN I BEAR THIS WITHOUT DRINKING?!

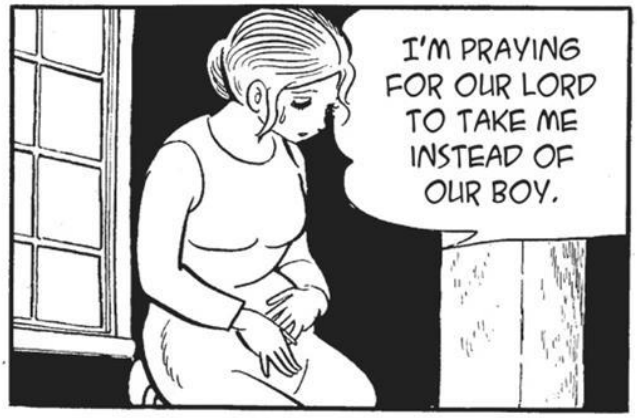

WHEN I'M ALL TURNED TO STONE, SET ME UP LIKE A STATUE— YES, IN A PARK,
PAPA, MAMA, DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE IT'S GOD'S WILL ...
WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM AND FRIENDS CAN VISIT.
この石像はもと少年でした
THIS STATUE USED TO BE A BOY

WHAT ARE YOU...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU CAN CURE HIM? OR WILL YOU ALSO JUST PITY US AND LEAVE?
THE BOY'S FATHER.

LET ME BEAR HIS BURDEN; I WOULD GLADLY DIE IN HIS STEAD.
O GOD, TORMENT MY BODY RATHER THAN MY CHILD'S!

ENOUGH! I'VE BELIEVED IN GOD ALL MY LIFE, BUT I'M THROUGH WITH THAT, TOO!
HA
SLAP
WHAT SORT OF MAN ARE YOU? ...BLASPHEMY.

HAVE YOU BEEN PRAYING AGAIN?


I'M PRAYING FOR OUR LORD TO TAKE ME INSTEAD OF OUR BOY.

SPENDING WHOLE DAYS IN THE DARK CAN'T BE GOOD FOR THE BABY.

EVEN IF OUR BOY IS SUMMONED TO HEAVEN, WE'LL HAVE A NEW CHILD TO RAISE.

DON'T BE SILLY, YOU'RE PREGNANT. FIRM UP.

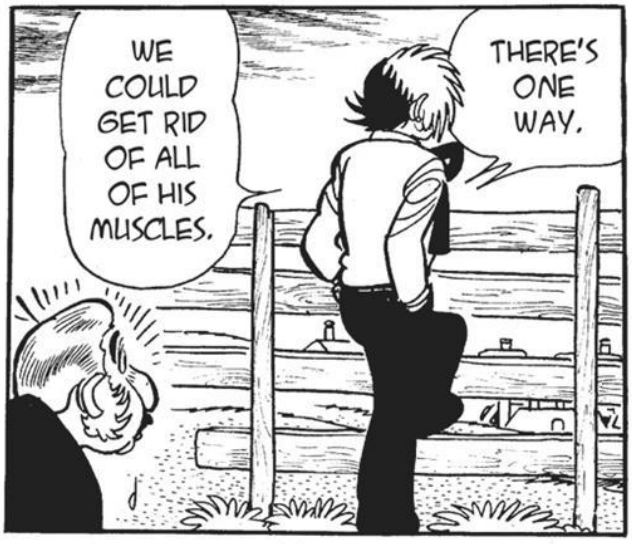
SOB

THAT DOCTOR GAVE UP ON HIM, TOO.

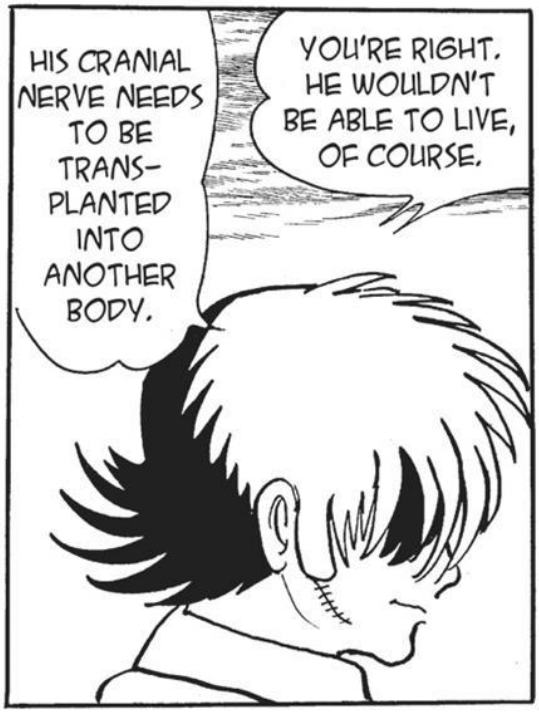
SO HE CAN'T BE CURED?

SO THERE IS NO HOPE AFTER ALL.
I CAN'T CURE HIM.
EVERY MUSCLE TISSUE AND ORGAN IS SHOWING SYMPTOMS.

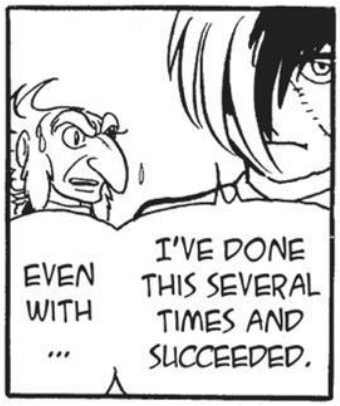
HE'D STILL HAVE ONLY BONES IN HIM!
BUT THAT'S ...

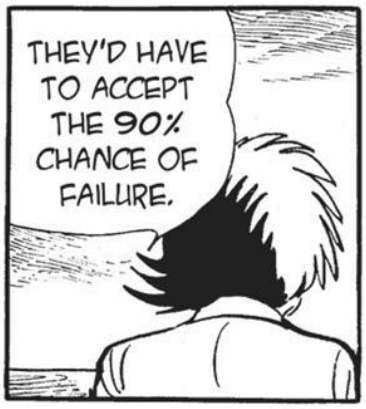

WE COULD GET RID OF ALL OF HIS MUSCLES.
THERE'S ONE WAY.

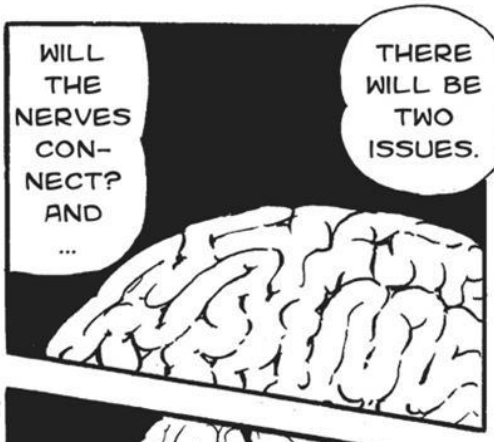
INDEED, NINE OUT OF TEN IT WON'T SUCCEED.
DOCTOR, YOU SPEAK OF WHAT IS NOT POSSIBLE ...
BUT IN SOME CASES IT HAS, MIRACULOUSLY.

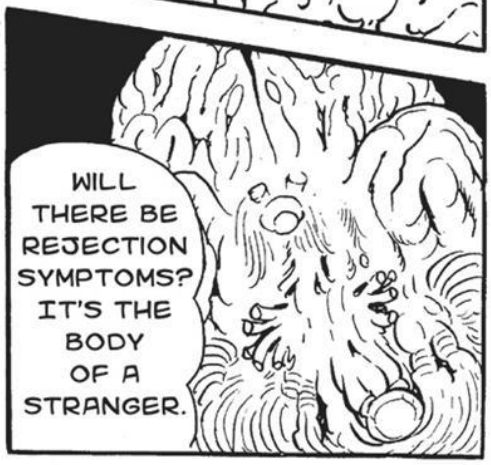

HIS CRANIAL NERVE NEEDS TO BE TRANS-PLANTED INTO ANOTHER BODY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LIVE, OF COURSE.

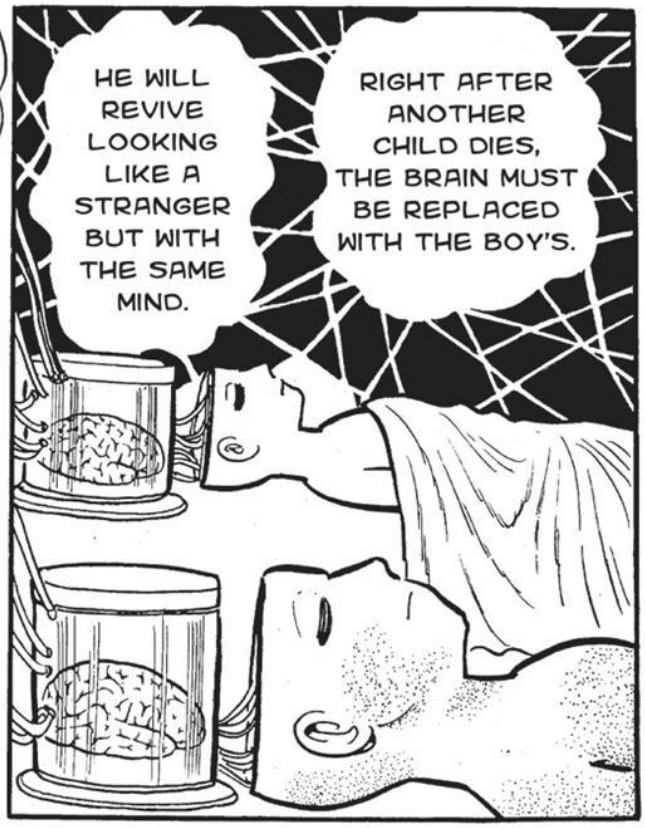
H-
HOR
A HORSE'S BRAIN IN A HUMAN CRANIUM.


EVEN WITH ...
I'VE DONE THIS SEVERAL TIMES AND SUCCEEDED.


THEY'D HAVE TO ACCEPT THE 90% CHANCE OF FAILURE.

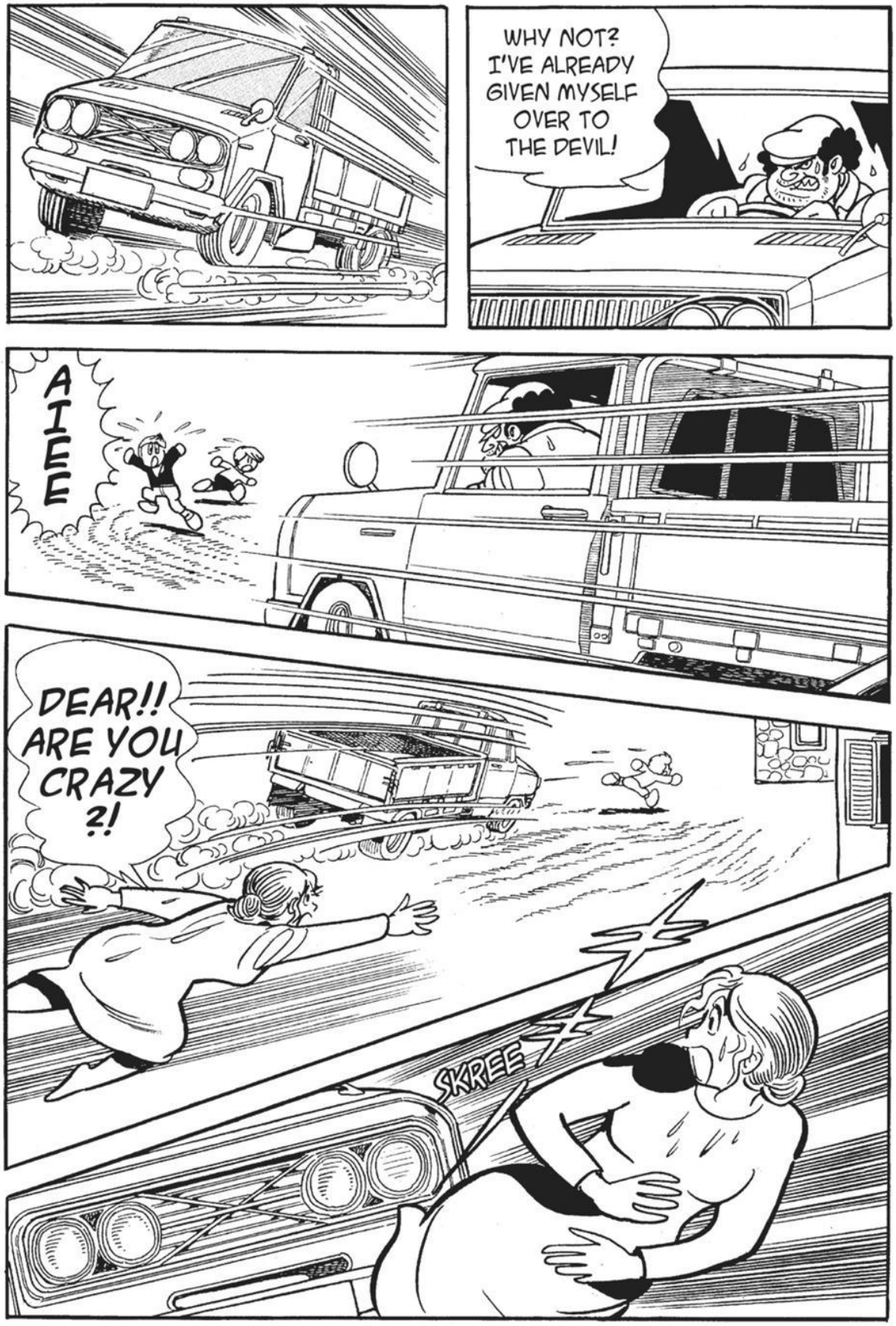

WILL THE NERVES CON-NECT? AND ...
THERE WILL BE TWO ISSUES.

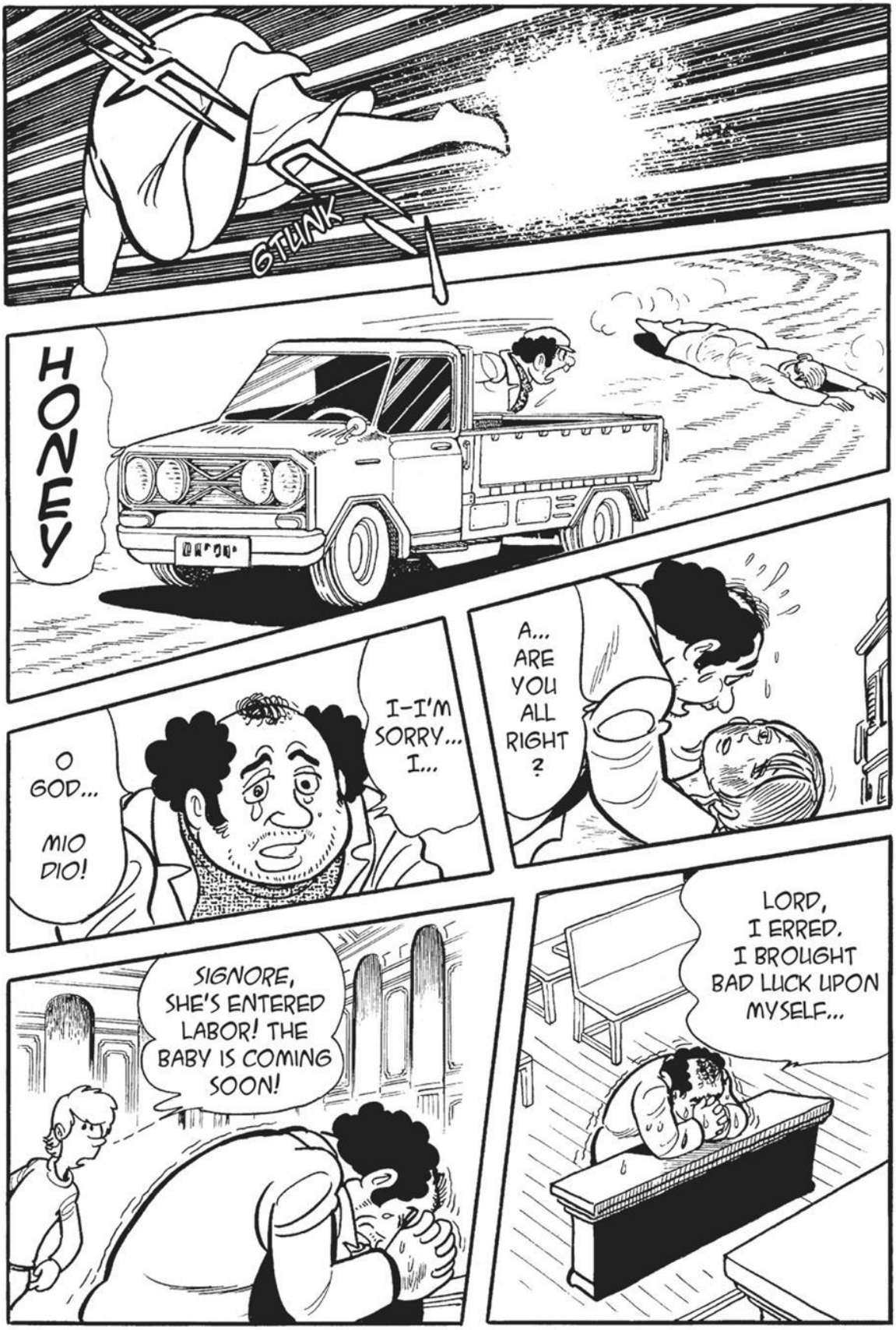

WILL THERE BE REJECTION SYMPTOMS? IT'S THE BODY OF A STRANGER.


HE WILL REVIVE LOOKING LIKE A STRANGER BUT WITH THE SAME MIND.
RIGHT AFTER ANOTHER CHILD DIES, THE BRAIN MUST BE REPLACED WITH THE BOY'S.

AND WE HAVE TO WAIT ON THAT CORPSE.

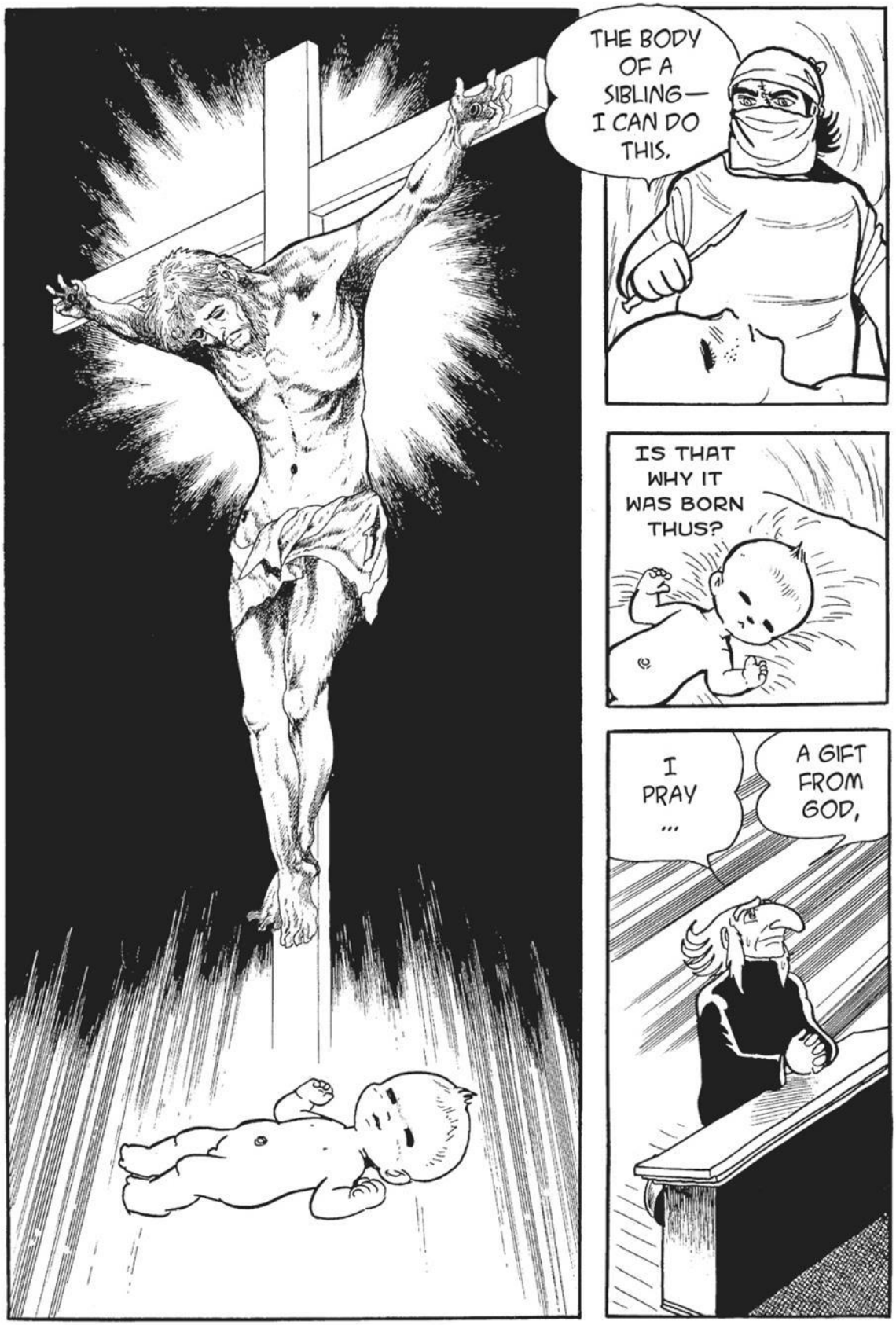
NO! YOU'LL BE CURSED!
I'LL BE PRAYING TO THE DEVIL: "MAY A YOUNG VILLAGER DIE, AND SOON!"
CAN'T SOME LOCAL KID CROAK?
LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
?
THAT ONE TOO...
THIS ONE IS BUILT LIKE MY BOY...
YES... IN AN ACCIDENT...
?
I DON'T CARE WHO, JUST DIE! DIE RIGHT NOW!


WHY NOT? I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MYSELF OVER TO THE DEVIL!
AIEE
DEAR!! ARE YOU CRAZY ?!
SKREE

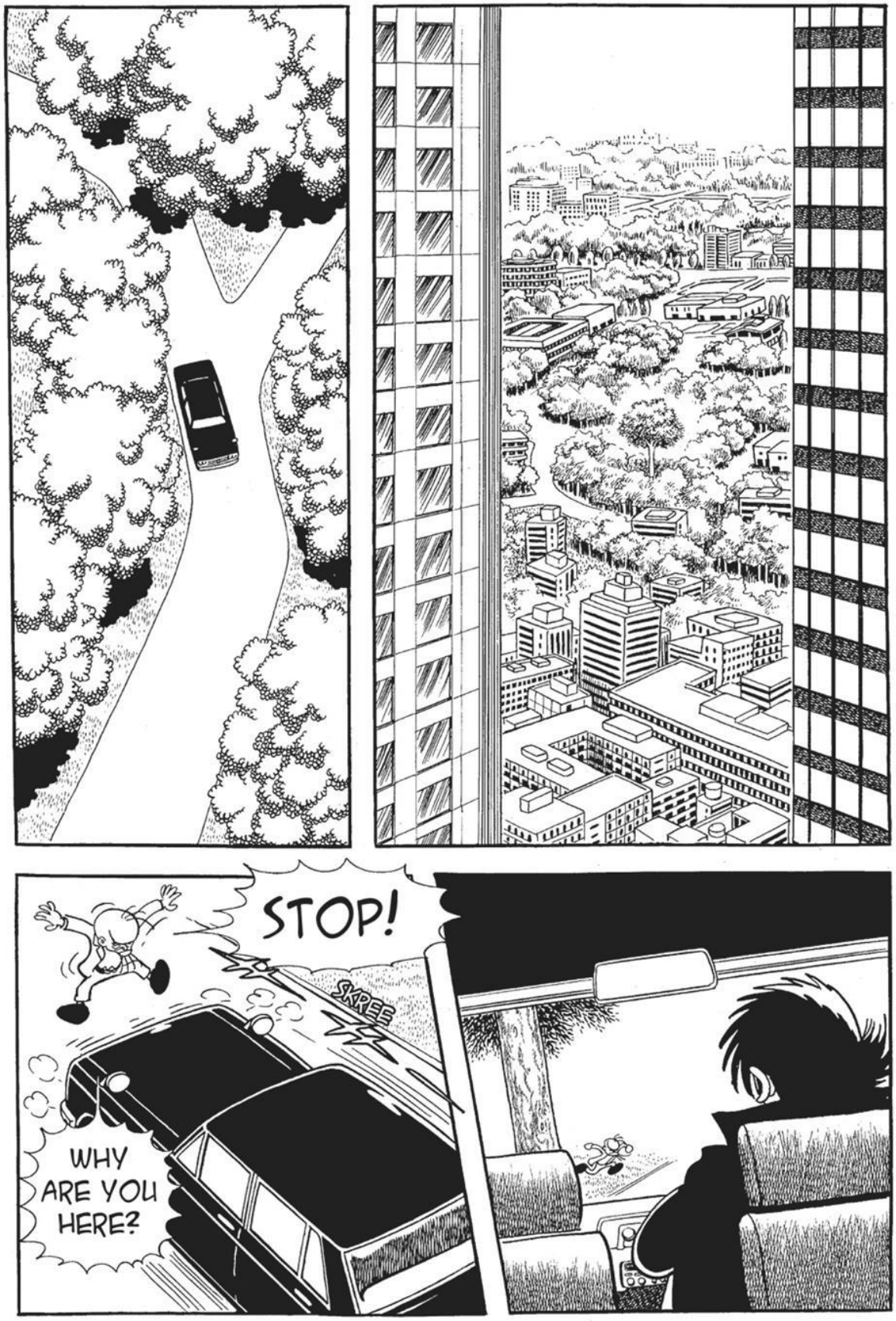

GTUNK
HONEY
A... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
I-I'M SORRY... I...
O GOD... MIO DIO!
LORD, I ERRED. I BROUGHT BAD LUCK UPON MYSELF...
SIGNORE, SHE'S ENTERED LABOR! THE BABY IS COMING SOON!

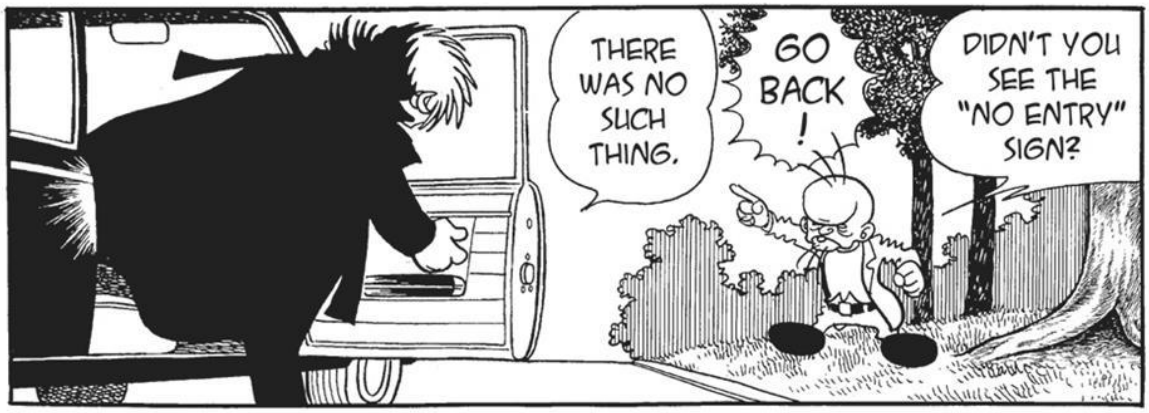
HONEY!
SHOW ME!
DEAR... THE BABY'S HERE ALREADY ...
STOPPED TAKING...
IT STOPPED TAKING BREATH ...
THE BABY... IT'S DEAD...
BAWL

BRING IT HERE!
"WEEP"
"WEEP"
I KILLED HIM ...
WHAT?!
GET READY FOR SURGERY!
I'M USING THAT BABY'S BODY!
IF THIS WORKS, YOUR BOY WILL BE A BABY AGAIN.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE!
YOUR SON'S BRAIN IS TOO LARGE FOR THE BABY,
LIKE I DID FOR MY DAUGHTER PINOKO!
SO WE'LL USE AN ARTIFICIAL CRANIUM


THE BODY OF A SIBLING— I CAN DO THIS.
IS THAT WHY IT WAS BORN THUS?
I PRAY ...
A GIFT FROM GOD,

THE OLD MAN AND THE TREE

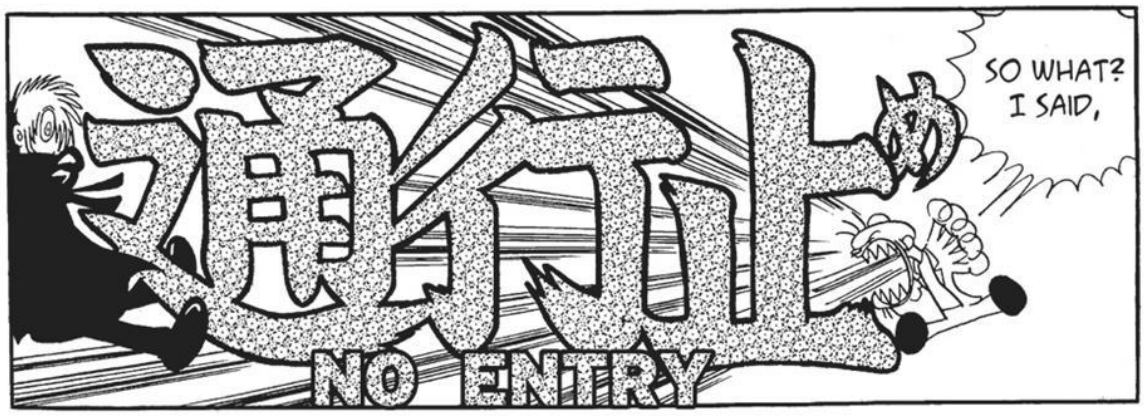

STOP!
SKREE
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

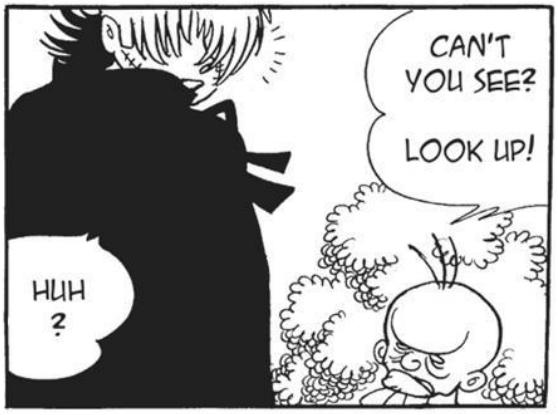

THERE WAS NO SUCH THING.
GO BACK !
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE "NO ENTRY" SIGN?

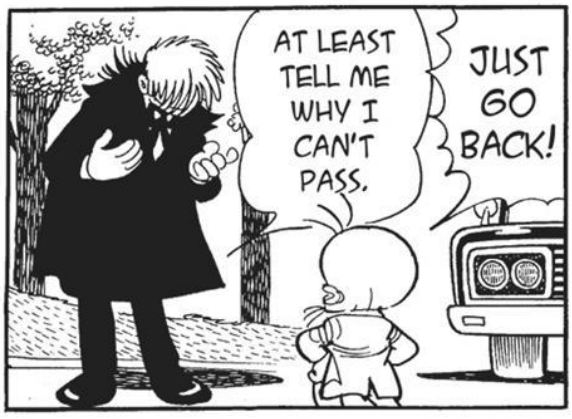
YEAH! WHAT IF I DO?
IT'S A PUBLIC ROAD.

YOU MEAN YOU PUT IT UP YOURSELF ?
FOR-GET ?

DID I FORGET TO PUT IT UP TODAY ?
NO ?


通行止
NO ENTRY
SO WHAT? I SAID,

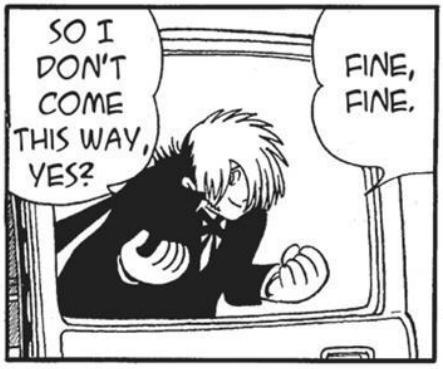

CAN'T YOU SEE?
LOOK UP!
HUH ?


AT LEAST TELL ME WHY I CAN'T PASS.
JUST GO BACK!

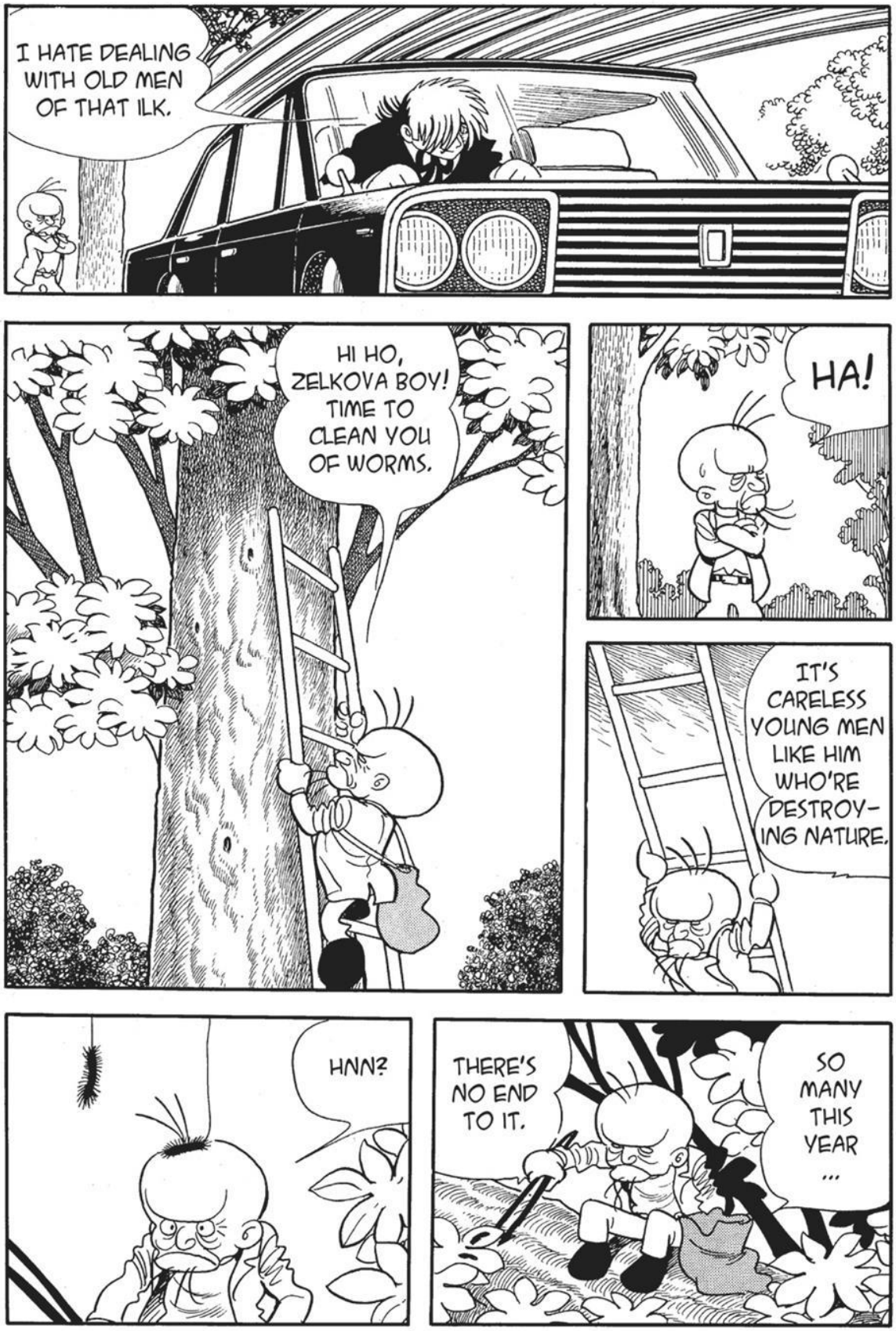
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO DRIVES A CAR AROUND HERE.

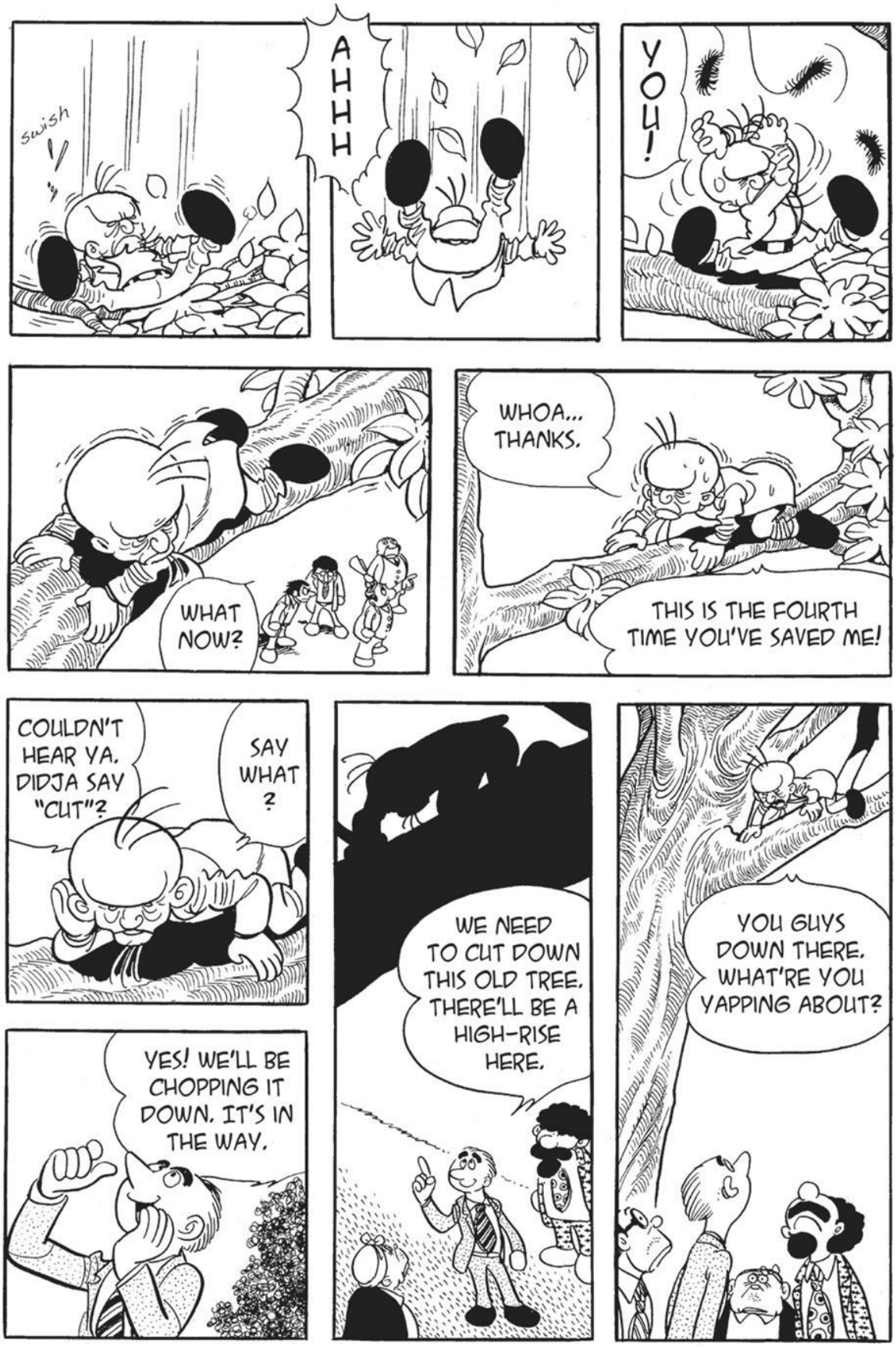
BUT WITH ALL THE POLLUTION, THE POOR THING CAN'T EVEN BREATHE.
THIS TREE IS THREE TIMES OLDER THAN THIS TOWN.

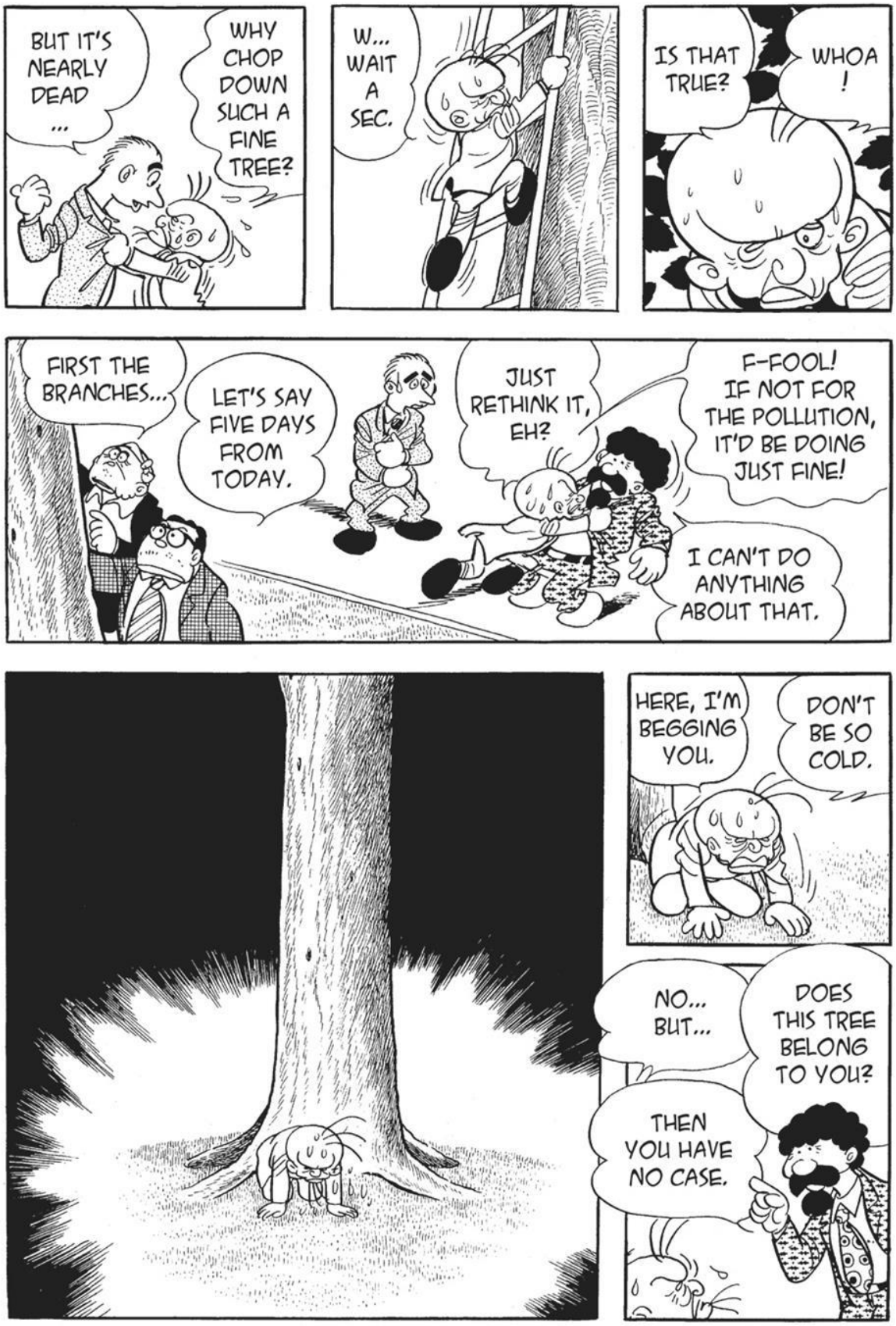
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO THAT, HUH?


SO I DON'T COME THIS WAY, YES?
FINE, FINE.

THANKS TO YOUR CARS' EXHAUST, THIS HERE BIG ZELKOVA TREE IS NEARLY DEAD!


I HATE DEALING WITH OLD MEN OF THAT ILK.
HI HO, ZELKOVA BOY! TIME TO CLEAN YOU OF WORMS.
HA!
IT'S CARELESS YOUNG MEN LIKE HIM WHO'RE DESTROY-ING NATURE.
HNN?
THERE'S NO END TO IT.
SO MANY THIS YEAR ...

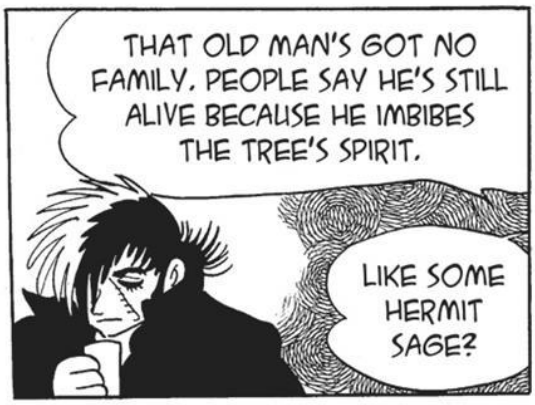

swish
AHHH
YOU!
WHAT NOW?
WHOA... THANKS.
THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME YOU'VE SAVED ME!
COULDN'T HEAR YA. DIDJA SAY "CUT"?
SAY WHAT ?
YES! WE'LL BE CHOPPING IT DOWN. IT'S IN THE WAY.
WE NEED TO CUT DOWN THIS OLD TREE. THERE'LL BE A HIGH-RISE HERE.
YOU GUYS DOWN THERE. WHAT'RE YOU YAPPING ABOUT?

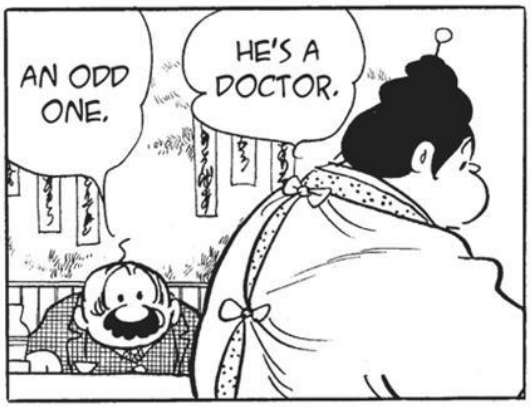

BUT IT'S NEARLY DEAD ...
WHY CHOP DOWN SUCH A FINE TREE?
W... WAIT A SEC.
IS THAT TRUE?
WHOA !
FIRST THE BRANCHES...
LET'S SAY FIVE DAYS FROM TODAY.
JUST RETHINK IT, EH?
F-FOOL! IF NOT FOR THE POLLUTION, IT'D BE DOING JUST FINE!
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
HERE, I'M BEGGING YOU.
DON'T BE SO COLD.
NO... BUT...
DOES THIS TREE BELONG TO YOU?
THEN YOU HAVE NO CASE.

WAIT TWO HOURS.
THAT'S NOT US.
FORESIRY
PUBLIC WORKS
WRONG SECTION!
IT'S TOO LATE.
HOUSING
SORRY, CAN'T HELP.
PLAN'S WELL UNDERWAY... TOO BAD.
THAT OLD MAN LOOKED AWFULLY DOWN.
MY ZELKOVA BOY, YOU'RE BEYOND HELP...
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH HIM AND THE TREE?

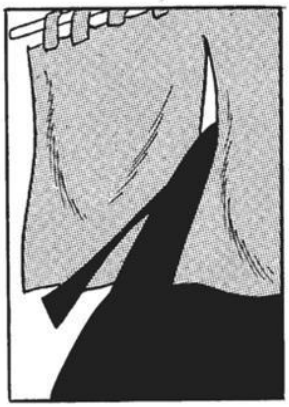
UH, "CARING" SEEMS TO BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.
APPARENTLY, HE'S BEEN CARING FOR IT SINCE HIS YOUTH.

THANK YOU!

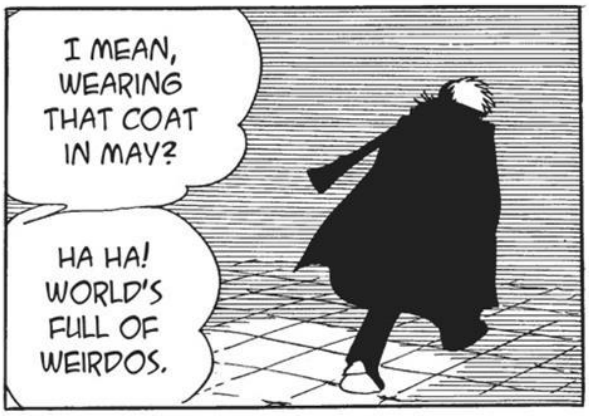

THAT OLD MAN'S GOT NO FAMILY. PEOPLE SAY HE'S STILL ALIVE BECAUSE HE IMBIBES THE TREE'S SPIRIT.
LIKE SOME HERMIT SAGE?

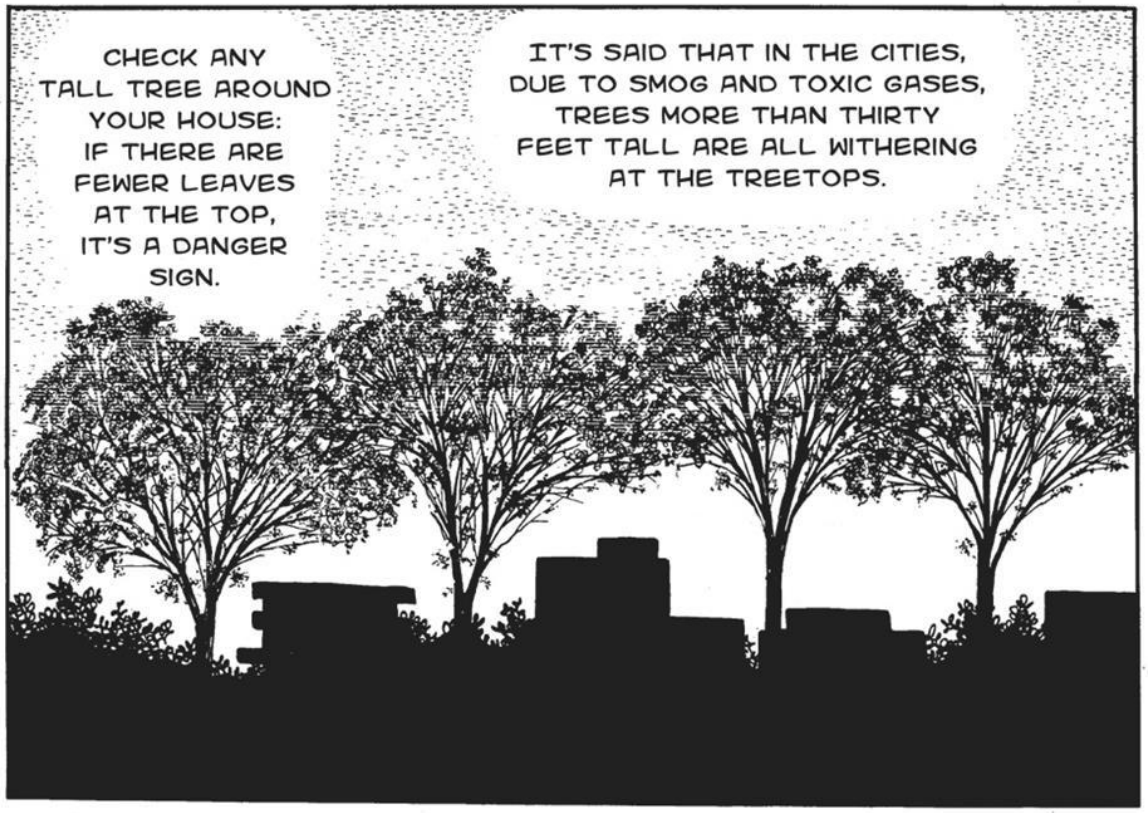

AN ODD ONE.
HE'S A DOCTOR.

WHAT'S HIS DEAL? CREEPY GUY...

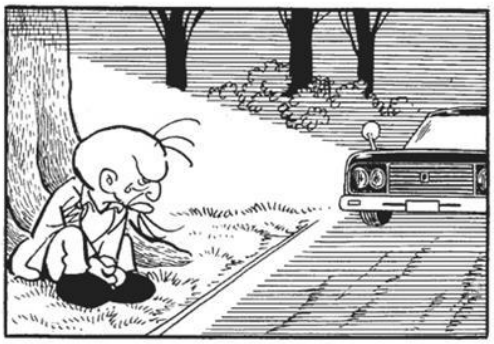


PRIMED TO KILL!
YOU DON'T KNOW, THEN? HE'S GOT A WHOLE ASSORTMENT OF SCALPELS IN THAT COAT.


I MEAN, WEARING THAT COAT IN MAY?
HA HA! WORLD'S FULL OF WEIRDOS.


CHECK ANY TALL TREE AROUND YOUR HOUSE: IF THERE ARE FEWER LEAVES AT THE TOP, IT'S A DANGER SIGN.
IT'S SAID THAT IN THE CITIES, DUE TO SMOG AND TOXIC GASES, TREES MORE THAN THIRTY FEET TALL ARE ALL WITHERING AT THE TREETOPS.

YOU SEEMED SO HALE WHEN YOU CHASED ME AWAY THE OTHER DAY. MAY I PASS ?
WHY SO QUIET ?



SHUT UP!!
YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW I FEEL!
THEY'RE GONNA KILL IT!!

DID YOU GIVE UP ON THE TREE?

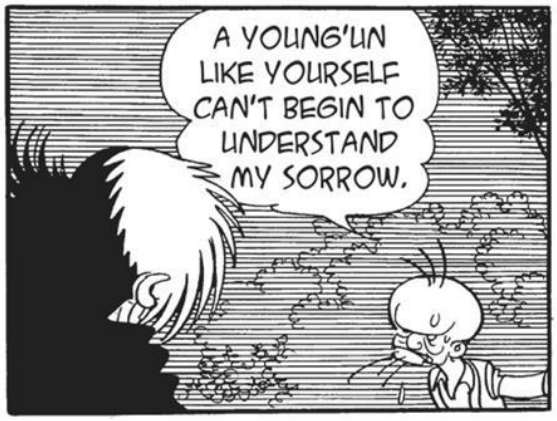
DO WHAT YOU WANT!!

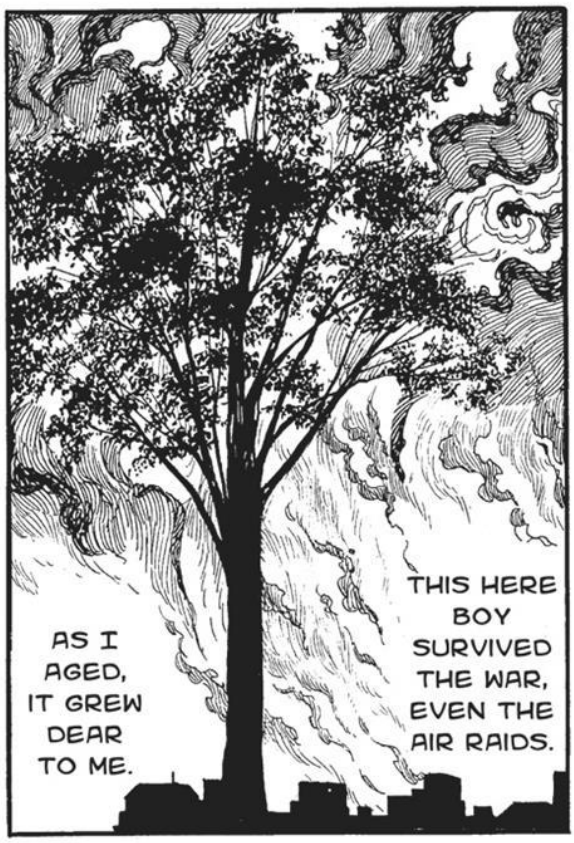
DURING THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE OF 1923, MY WHOLE FAMILY DIED... I CLUNG TO THE TRUNK OF THIS BOY. IT STOOD FIRM WITH ITS THICK ROOTS AND GUARDED ME.

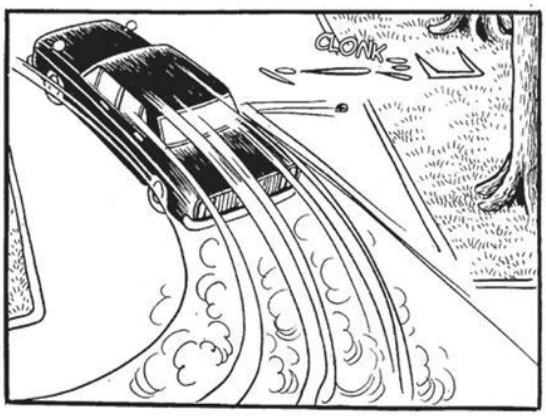
WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH IT?

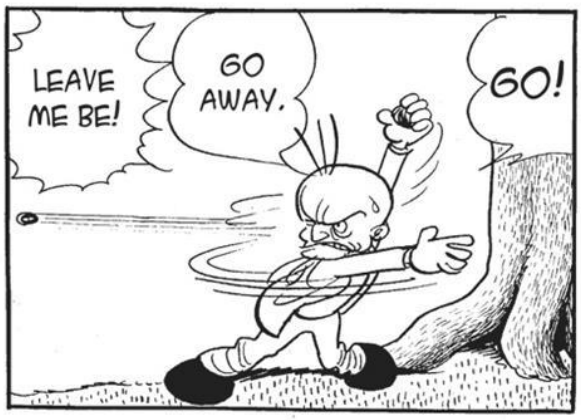
SAVED MY LIFE.
ZELKOVA BOY...

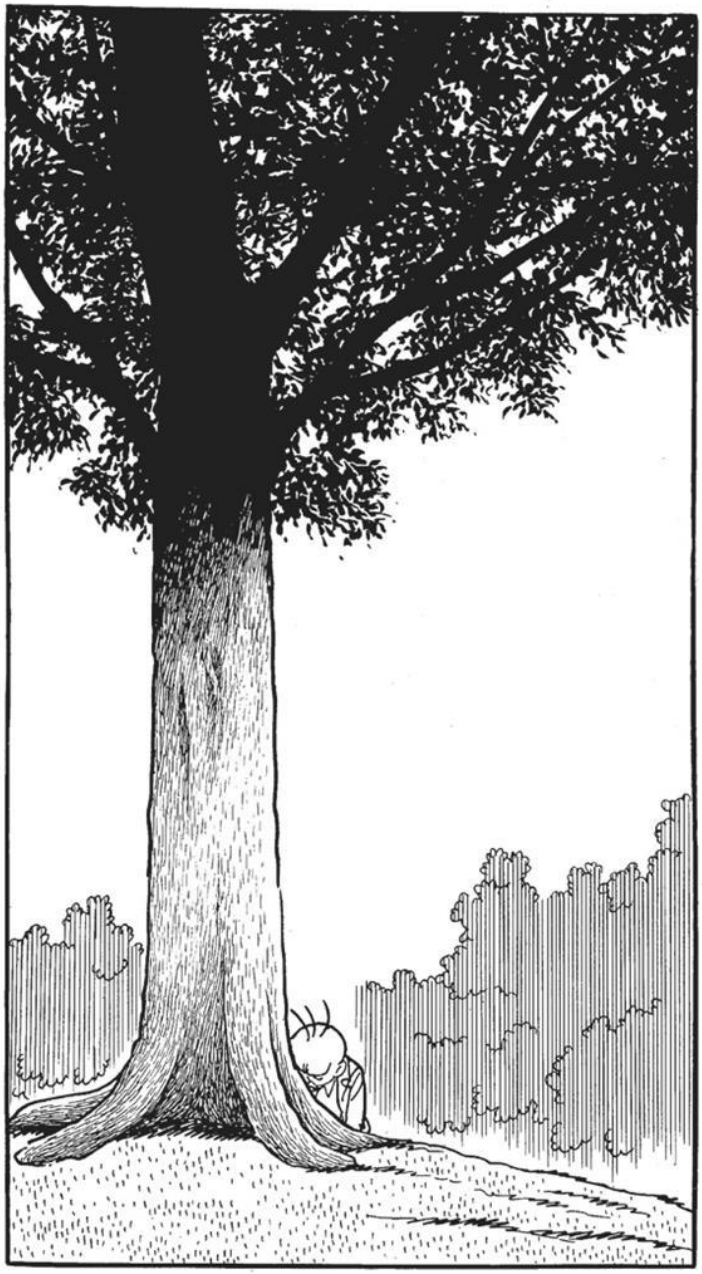
BUT IN 3 DAYS WE HAVE TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG STORY FOR US...


A YOUNG'UN LIKE YOURSELF CAN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND MY SORROW.

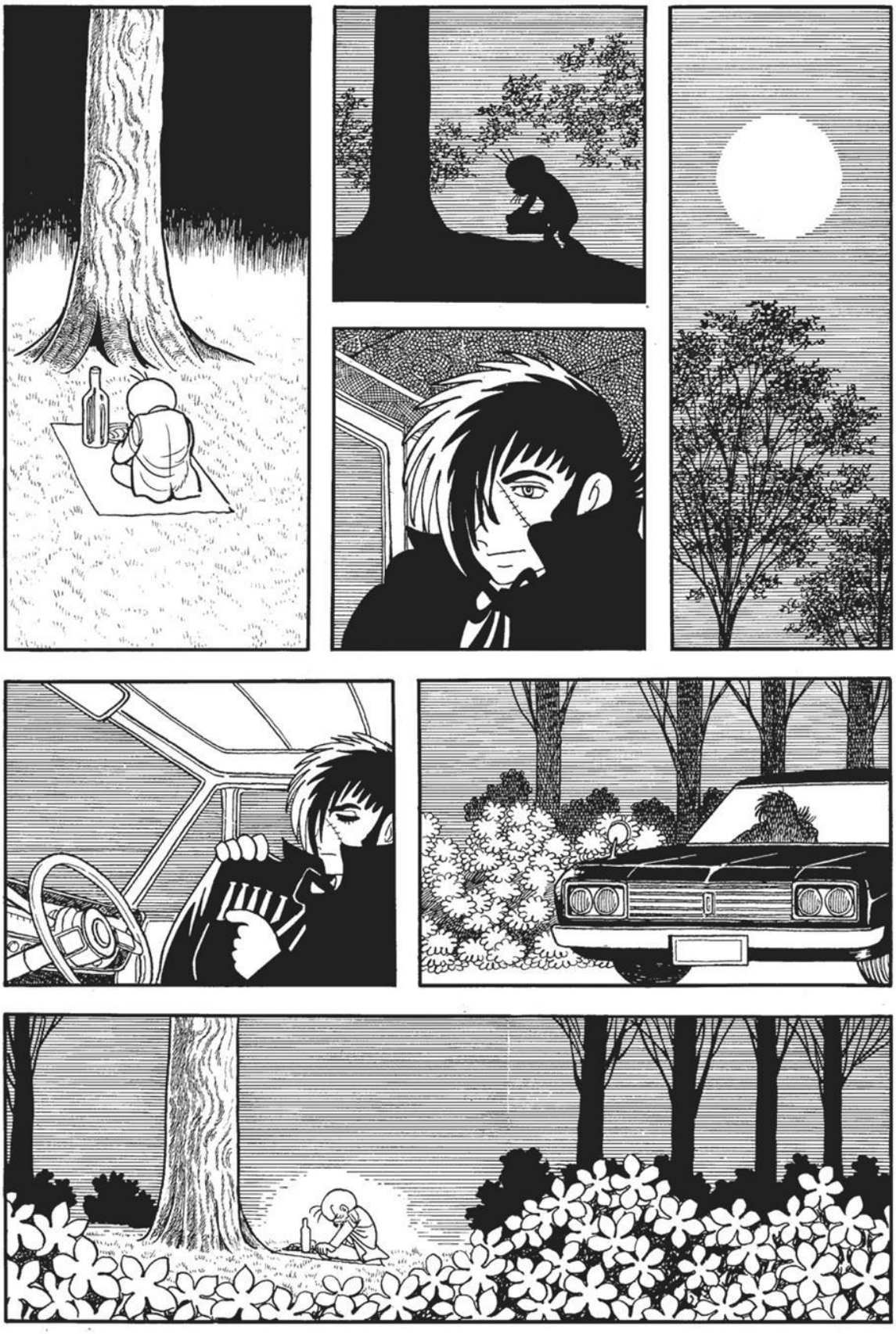

AS I AGED, IT GREW DEAR TO ME.
THIS HERE BOY SURVIVED THE WAR, EVEN THE AIR RAIDS.

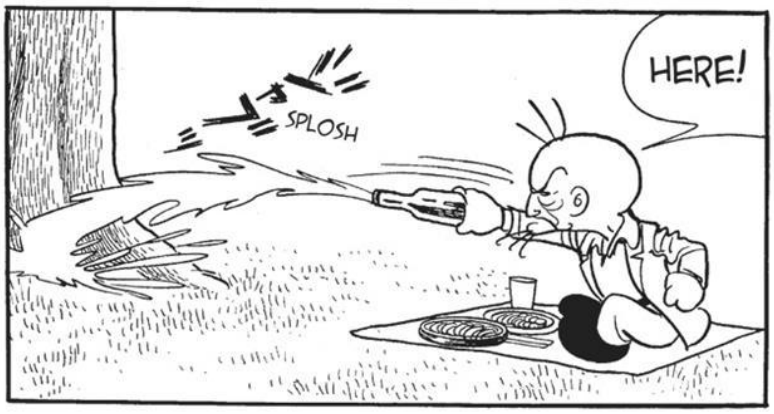

CLONK


LEAVE ME BE!
GO AWAY.
GO!



HEY, THAT OLD MAN'S BEEN SITTING THERE FOR 3 DAYS NOW.
IS HE ALL RIGHT?




SPLOSH
HERE!

ZELKOVA BOY, YOU HAVE SOME TOO...

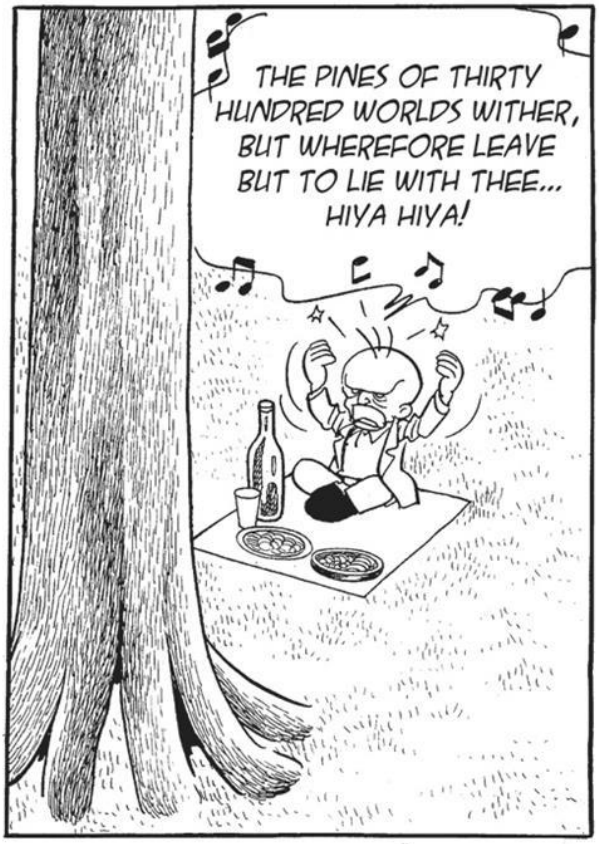
I S'POSE THE WORLD HAS NO USE FOR OLD BONES LIKE YOU.

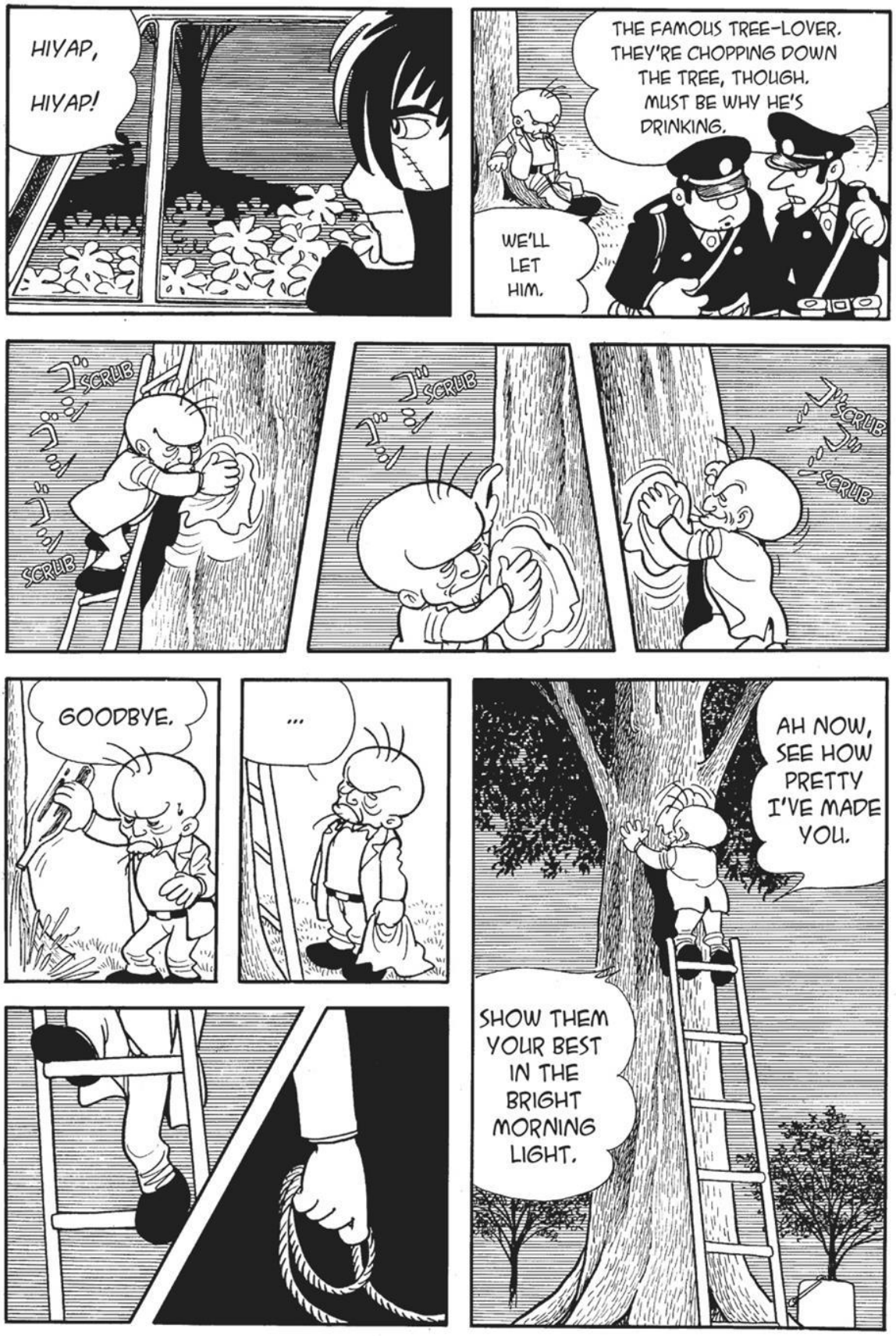
MANY YEARS YOU'VE LIVED...
AND SO HAVE I...

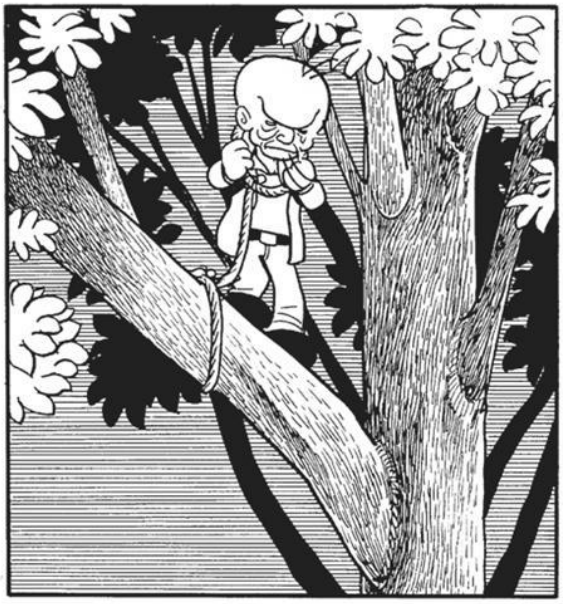
TONIGHT'S OUR LAST TOGETHER. "HICK"

THE COINS I GATHERED, O, I SPEND ON THEE...
THE LAKES ARE DRY, THE ZELKOVAS WITHER...

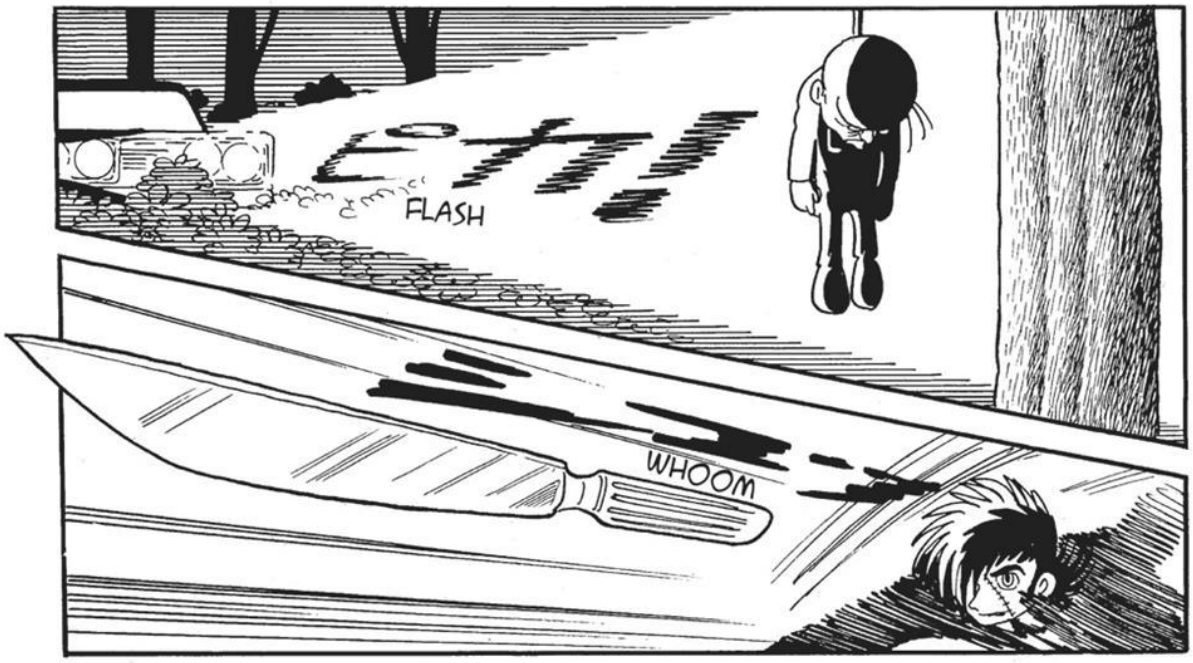
NONE OF YER BIZNESS.
HEY, WHAT'S UP?

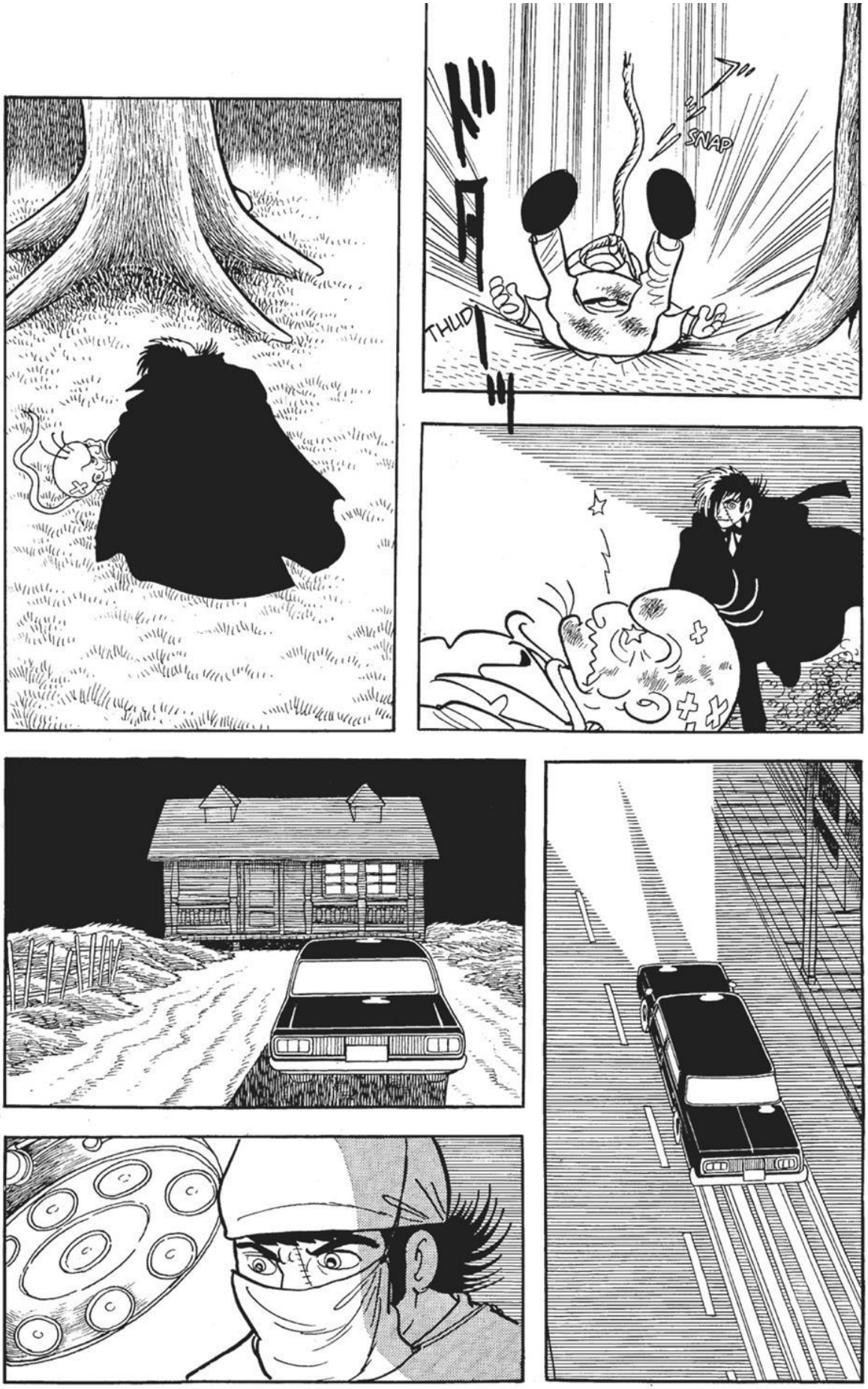

THE PINES OF THIRTY HUNDRED WORLDS WITHER, BUT WHEREFORE LEAVE BUT TO LIE WITH THEE... HIYA HIYA!


HIYAP,
HIYAP!
THE FAMOUS TREE-LOVER. THEY'RE CHOPPING DOWN THE TREE, THOUGH. MUST BE WHY HE'S DRINKING.
WE'LL LET HIM.
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
GOODBYE.
...
AH NOW, SEE HOW PRETTY I'VE MADE YOU.
SHOW THEM YOUR BEST IN THE BRIGHT MORNING LIGHT.

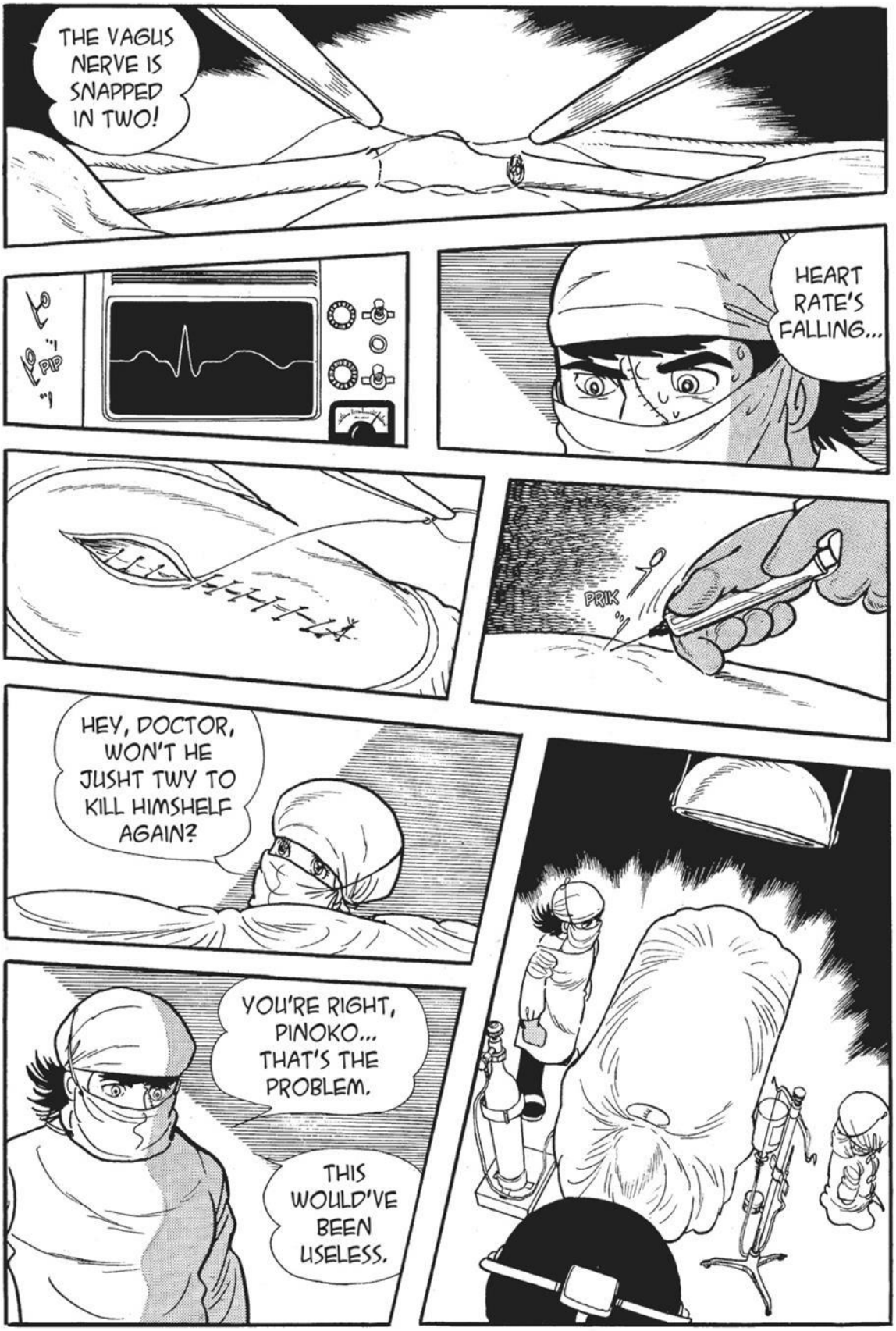


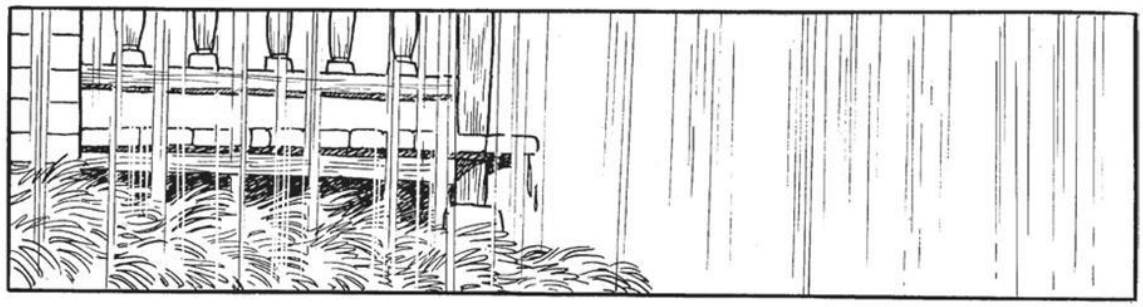
WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN OUR NEXT LIVES.
I'M GOING FIRST...


FLASH
WHOOM


SNAP
THUD

STILL, THE CAROTIDS ARE IN BAD SHAPE... CAREFUL!
HIS HEART STOPPED ONCE BUT STARTED UP AGAIN.
LUCKILY HE WAS HANGING THERE FOR JUST SEVERAL SECONDS.
MASSIVE BLEEDING HERE AND THE BRAIN'S A GONER.
I WIPE AND THERE'S MORE...
NOW DON'T GO TEARING AND SPOUTING BLOOD, ALL RIGHT?

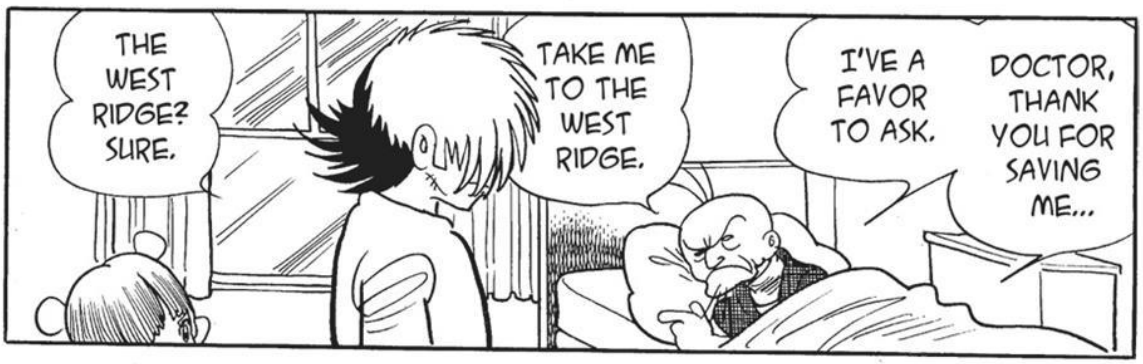

THE VAGUS NERVE IS SNAPPED IN TWO!
PIP
HEART RATE'S FALLING...
PRIK
HEY, DOCTOR, WON'T HE JUSHT TWY TO KILL HIMSHELF AGAIN?
YOU'RE RIGHT, PINOKO... THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
THIS WOULD'VE BEEN USELESS.



GWAN-PA'S AWAKE!

DOCTOR... DOCTOR?

GLANCE
GLANCE


THE WEST RIDGE? SURE.
TAKE ME TO THE WEST RIDGE.
I'VE A FAVOR TO ASK.
DOCTOR, THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME...

EH, NO...

WHY DO YOU NEED TO GO THERE?

YOU'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE ?
THERE'S A BIG ZELKOVA WITH A WHITE SCAR ON ITS TRUNK.

IT'S REALLY HERE!!
IT'S HERE !!
AH HA!
THE WHITE SCAR.
LOOK IT!
I DIED ONCE AS I HANGED! AND I MET ZELKOVA BOY, WHO SAID TO ME:
ACCHON BURIKE
CARE FOR IT WELL PLEASE, AS THOUGH IT WERE ME."
"A SEED I BLEW LANDED ON THE WEST RIDGE AND GREW...

WHEN I'M ALL BETTER, I'LL BUILD A HUT HERE!

SO I PROMISED HIM OF COURSE. I'D CARE FOR IT.
I WAS SO GLAD I GOT TO TALK WITH ZELKOVA BOY...

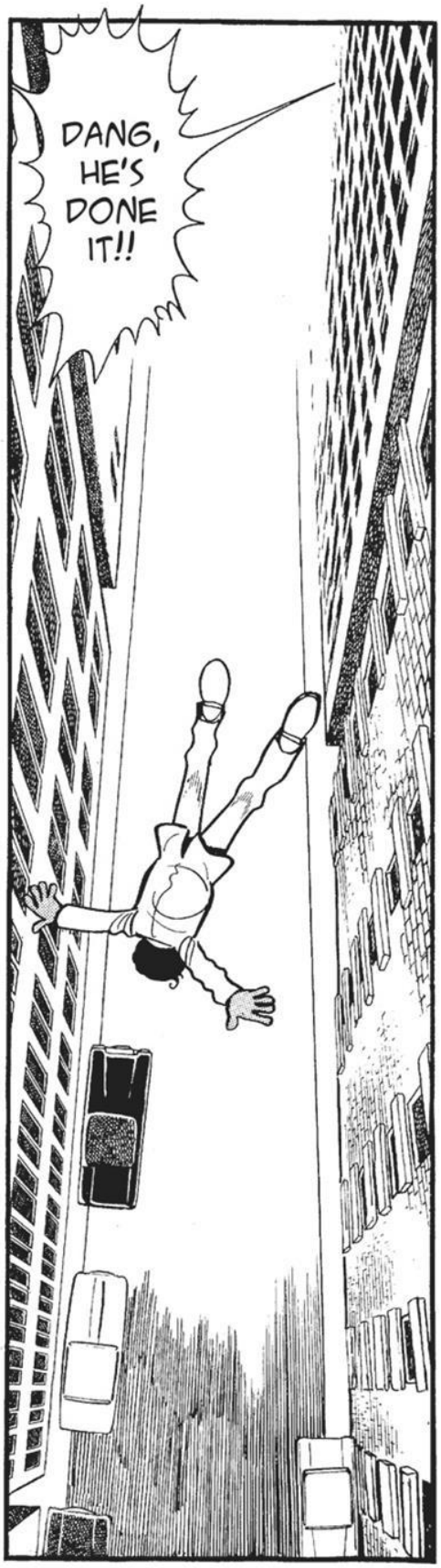
THE OLD MAN FOUND A REASON TO LIVE. GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

SHTWANGE, DON'T YOU FINK?
THE TWEE WEALLY TOLD GWAN-PA?

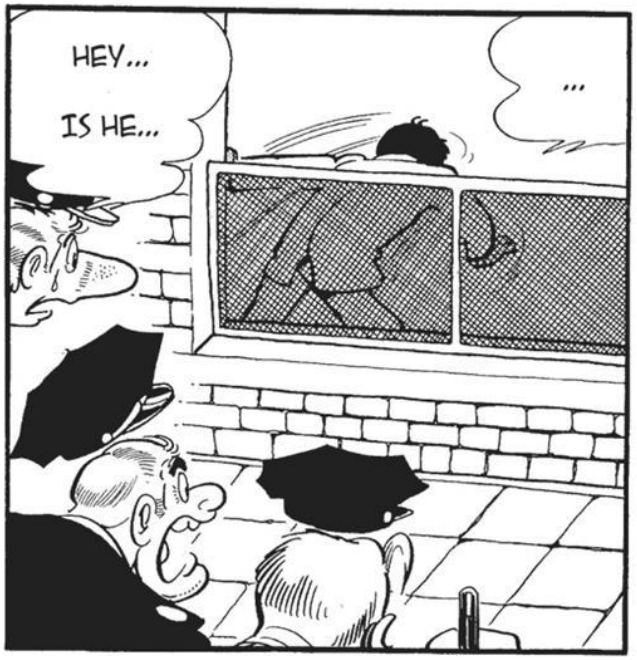
DUNNO MUCH ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH. NOR DO I CARE.

TWICE DEAD

HALT!!
STOMP
STOMP
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HOP
CLANG
CLANG


DANG, HE'S DONE IT!!

PUT YOUR HANDS UP AND COME OUT HERE, KILLER! I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CHAIR.


HEY...
IS HE...
...

AIEEEEE!

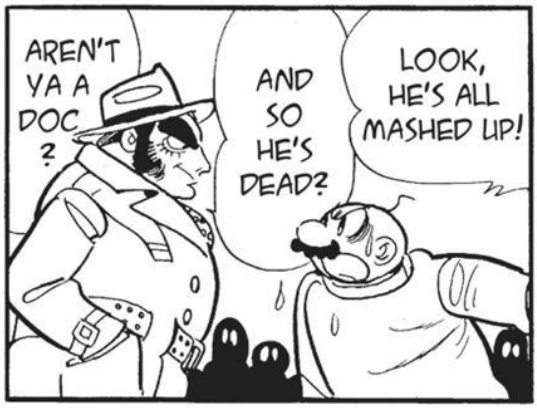
UGH...

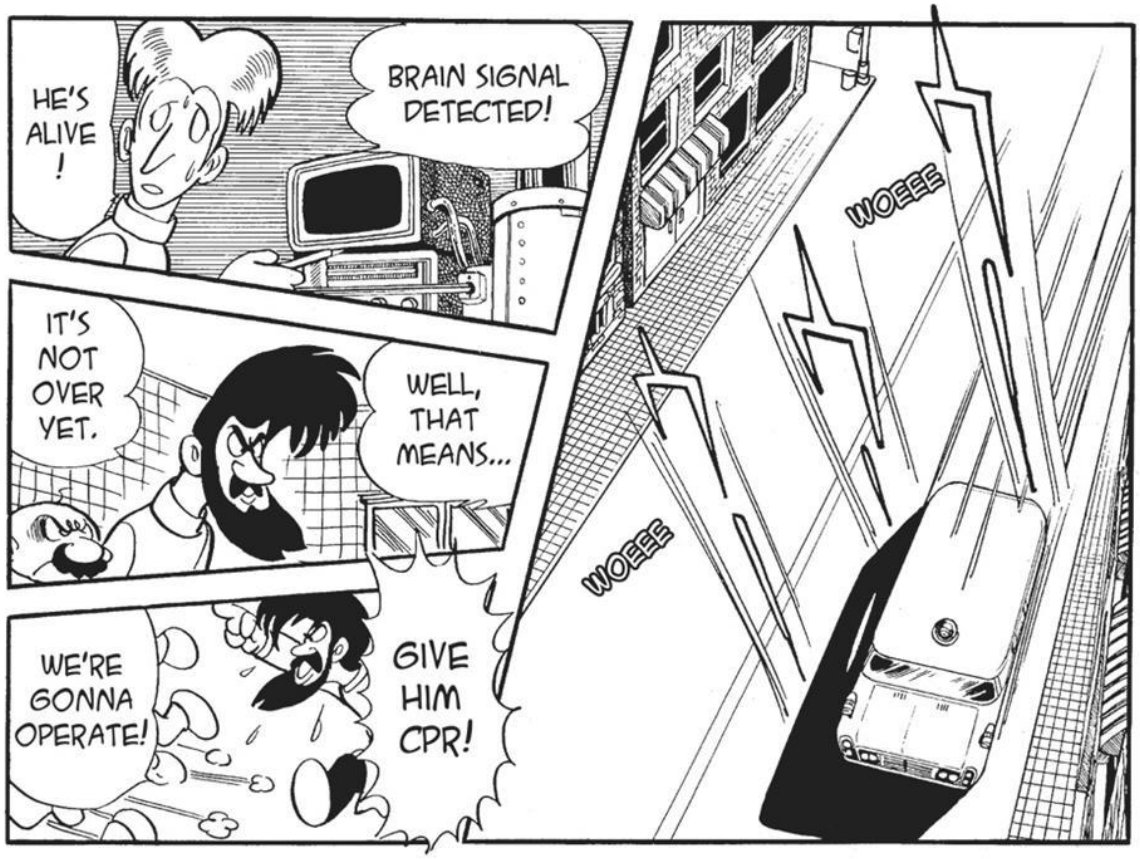
ARE YOU SURE?
HIS HEART'S NOT BEATING, HIS PUPILS ARE DILATED. I'M CALLING HIM DEAD.

YOU CHECK HIS BRAIN WAVES YET?
THE BRAIN'S OFTEN OKAY FOR A WHILE AFTER HEART STOPPAGE.

A JUMP-ER?
FROM THE 7TH FLOOR LEDGE!
NAH, RUNNING FROM THE COPS.
HE WAS WANTED FOR MURDER.
AH! GLAD HE'S DEAD.

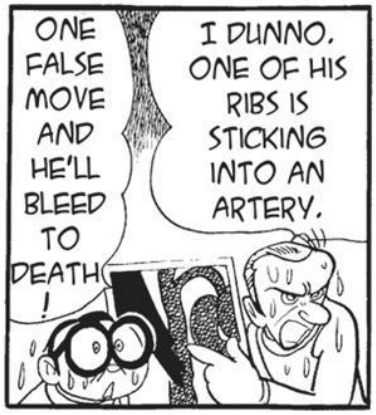
HAUL HIM BACK.
TSK! IT'S NO USE...
TRY AND TREAT HIM.


AREN'T YA A DOC ?
AND SO HE'S DEAD?
LOOK, HE'S ALL MASHED UP!

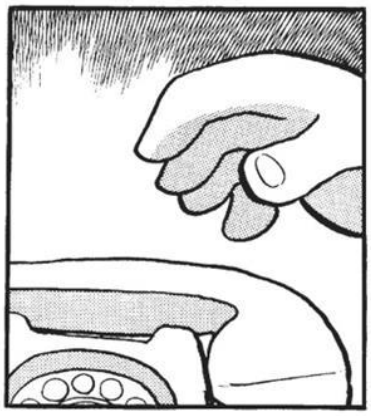

HE'S ALIVE !
BRAIN SIGNAL DETECTED!
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
WELL, THAT MEANS...
WE'RE GONNA OPERATE!
GIVE HIM CPR!
WOEEE
WOEEE

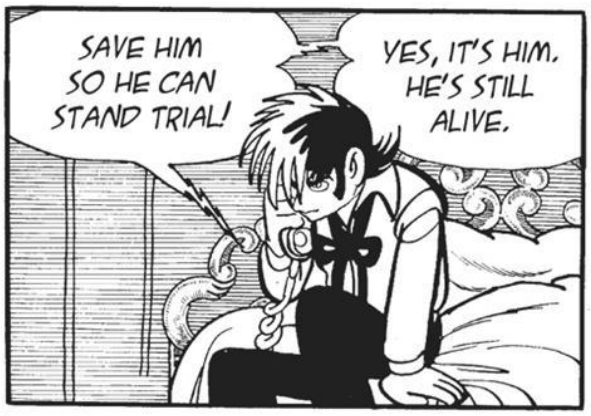
A DOCTOR FROM JAPAN WHO'S IN NYC RIGHT NOW.
MAYBE HE CAN DO IT.

THIS IS GOING TO TAKE DIVINE SKILL. WAIT ...


ONE FALSE MOVE AND HE'LL BLEED TO DEATH !
I DUNNO. ONE OF HIS RIBS IS STICKING INTO AN ARTERY.

AND WE NEED A SURGEON!
WE HAVE A PATIENT WHO JUMPED AND IS NEAR DEATH,
IS THIS DOCTOR BLACK JACK?




SAVE HIM SO HE CAN STAND TRIAL!
YES, IT'S HIM. HE'S STILL ALIVE.

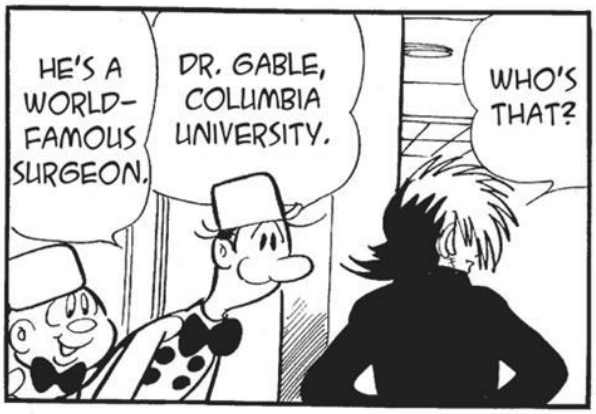
DIDN'T THIS GUY KILL?

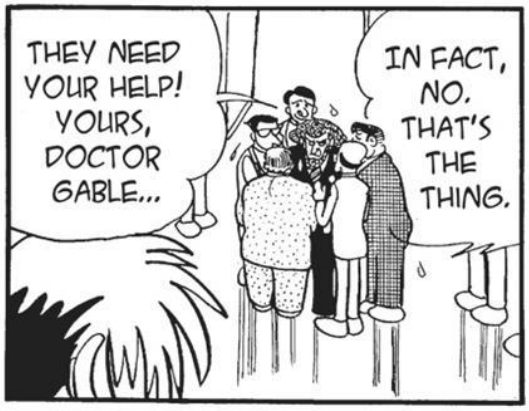
WELL, NO THANKS. IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
HELP A SOUL?

UH, DON'T BE THAT WAY... HELP A SOUL.
HE BOTHERED TO COMMIT SUICIDE. LET HIM DIE.

DOC-TOR
KCHING ガチャリ

I HAVE TO SPEAK AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, THEN CATCH A PLANE!
NO, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
SURELY SOMEONE AT THE HOSPITAL CAN HANDLE IT?

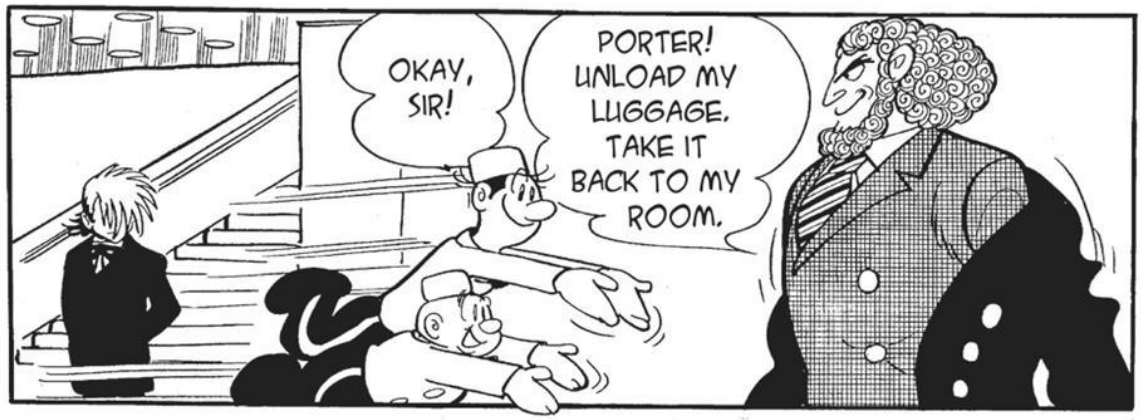

HE'S A WORLD-FAMOUS SURGEON.
DR. GABLE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.
WHO'S THAT?


THEY NEED YOUR HELP! YOURS, DOCTOR GABLE...
IN FACT, NO. THAT'S THE THING.

TH... THANK YOU!!
FINE... I'LL HEAD THE OP BUT THAT WILL BE IT.

WHETHER OR NOT THE OPERATION SUCCEEDS IS UP TO YOU, DOCTOR...

THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS RIVETED ON THIS CASE. THE MEDIA ARE ALL OVER IT.

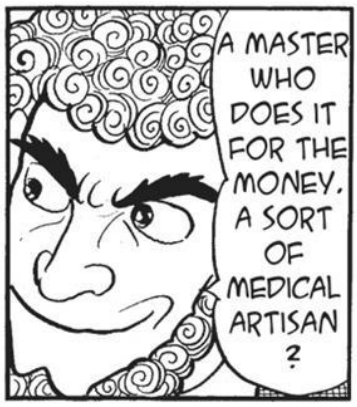

OKAY, SIR!
PORTER! UNLOAD MY LUGGAGE. TAKE IT BACK TO MY ROOM.

WAIT A MINUTE...
ARE YOU "BLACK JACK" ?

I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU.
FOUND SOME MARK ?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

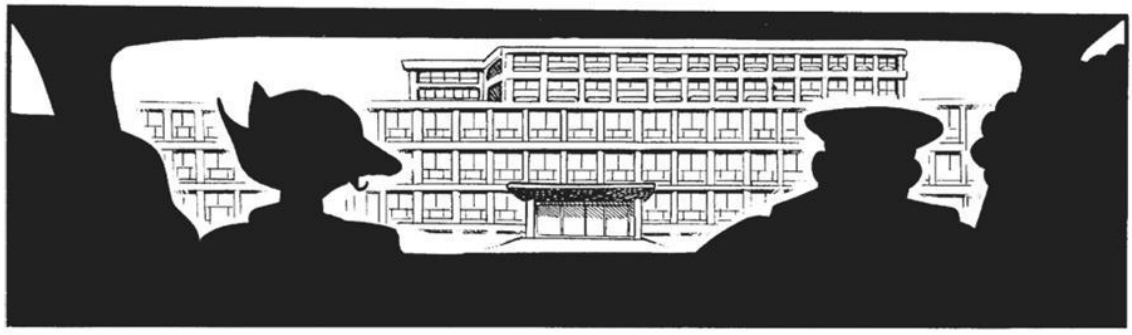
THERE'S NO BREED I HOLD IN GREATER CONTEMPT. DOCTORS SEEKING RICHES!

...

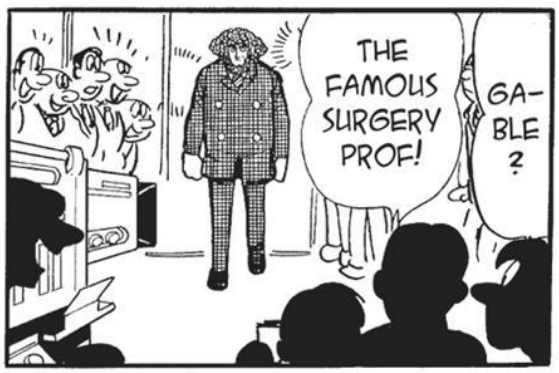

A MASTER WHO DOES IT FOR THE MONEY. A SORT OF MEDICAL ARTISAN ?

THE CAR'S WAITING, DOCTOR.

I GATHER YOU SLICE PEOPLE UP WITHOUT A LICENSE YOURSELF.
A LOT OF FAKE DOCTORS IN JAPAN, I HEAR.
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?



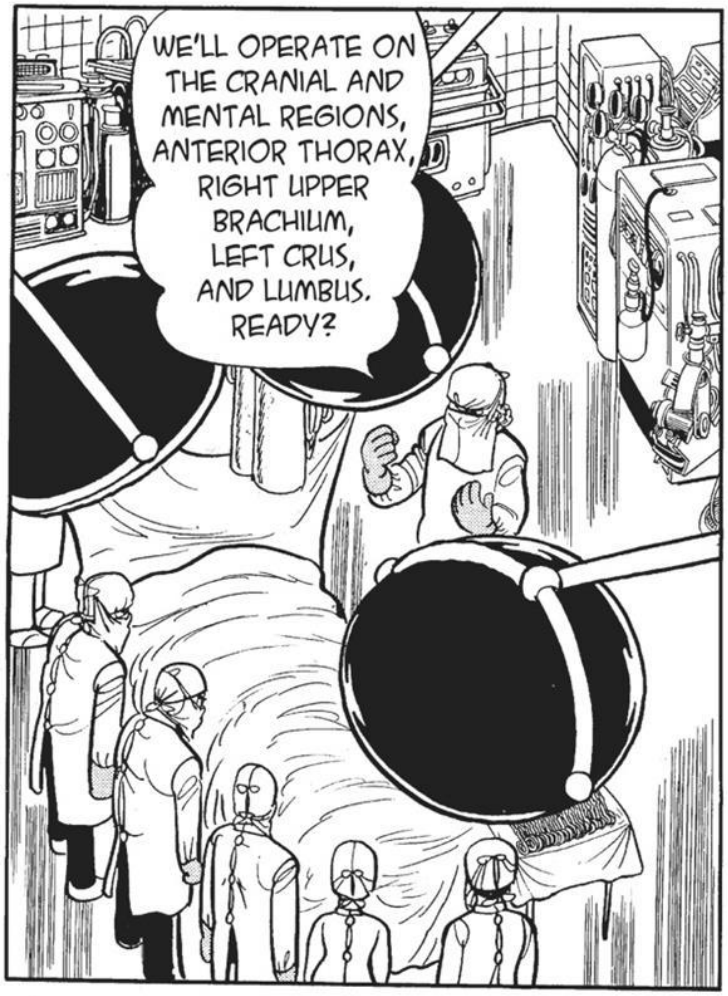
IF HE DOESN'T, HE'LL LOSE FACE BIG TIME.
YOU THINK HE CAN SAVE THE PERP?


THE FAMOUS SURGERY PROF!
GA-BLE ?

NOT THAT THAT'S RARE. NOT AROUND HERE. THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE ASKING THIS.
HE KILLED HIS OLD MAN.
DETECTIVE HARRY, NYPD.
HE'S A MINOR. I WANT TO ARREST HIM...

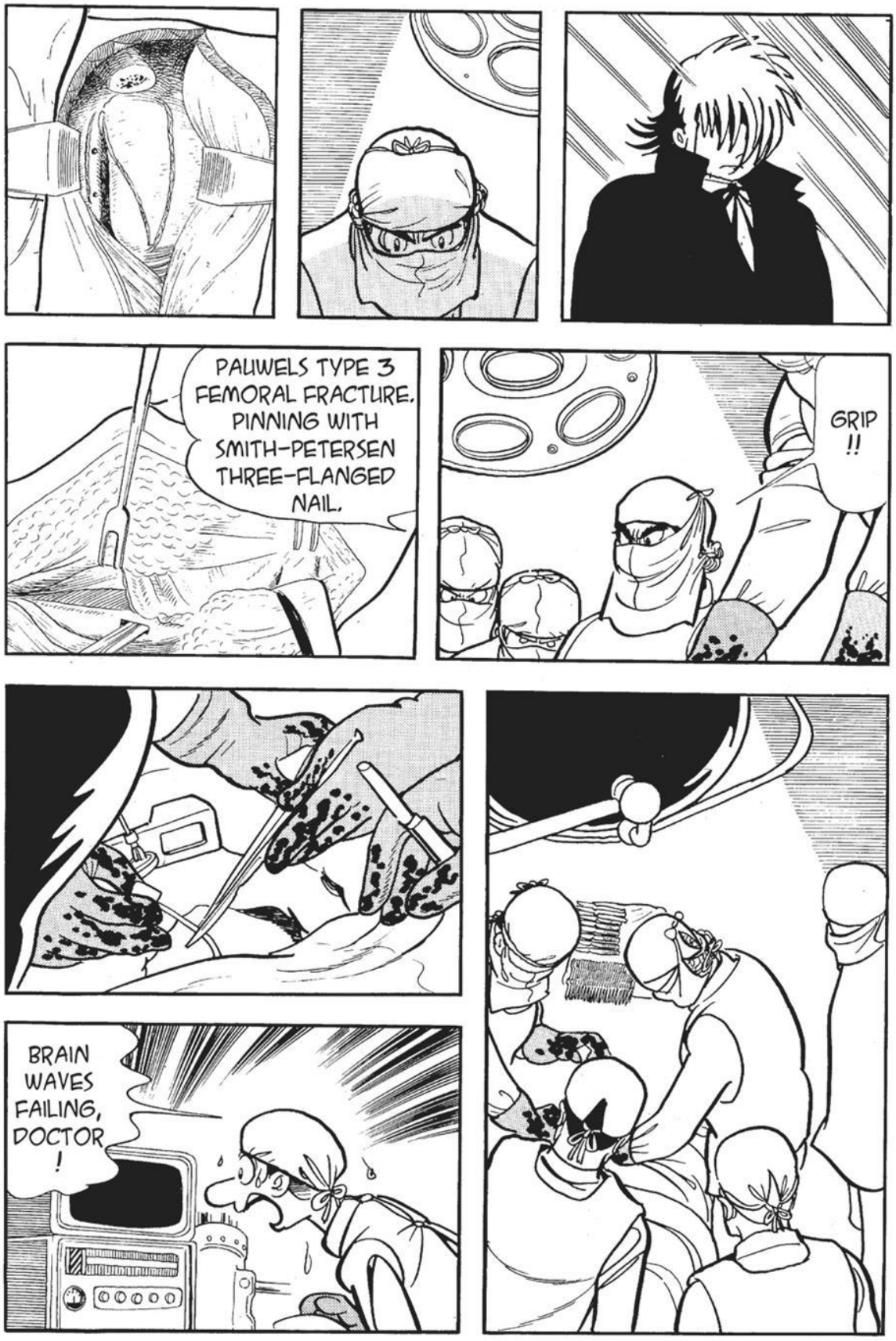
WELL, IT'S A BIG SHOW.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY JOURNOS AT A HOSPITAL.
A MAJOR OP BY THE ONE AND ONLY GABLE.

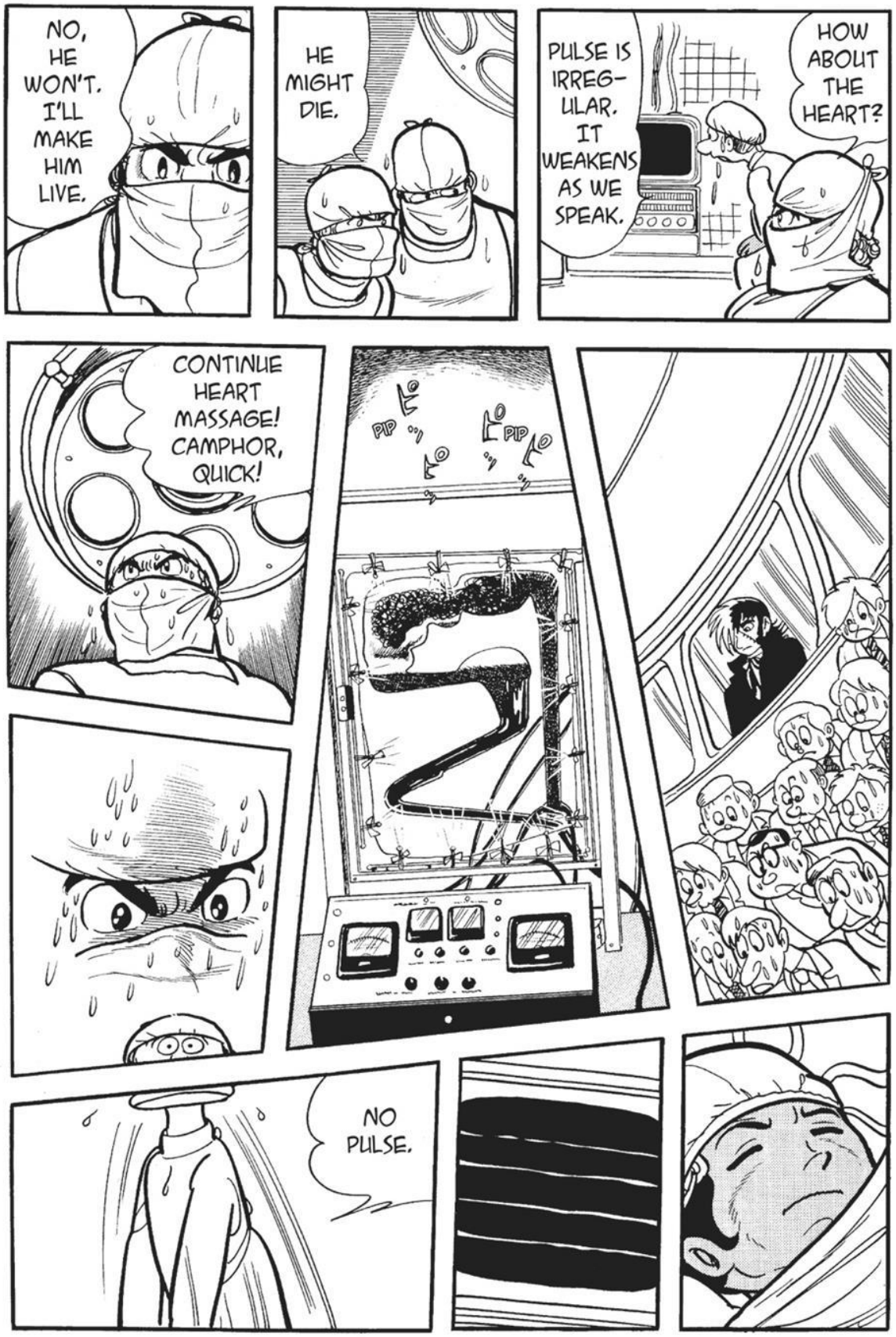
IT'S BEGUN !


WE'LL OPERATE ON THE CRANIAL AND MENTAL REGIONS, ANTERIOR THORAX, RIGHT UPPER BRACHIUM, LEFT CRUS, AND LUMBUS. READY?

THE UNLICENSED SURGEON?! THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING.
YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT'S HIM!

ISN'T HE BLACK JACK?
HEY, THAT JAPANESE? I'VE SEEN HIS FACE SOMEWHERE.


PAUWELS TYPE 3 FEMORAL FRACTURE. PINNING WITH SMITH-PETERSEN THREE-FLANGED NAIL.
GRIP !!
BRAIN WAVES FAILING, DOCTOR !


NO, HE WON'T. I'LL MAKE HIM LIVE.
HE MIGHT DIE.
PULSE IS IRREG-ULAR. IT WEAKENS AS WE SPEAK.
HOW ABOUT THE HEART?
CONTINUE HEART MASSAGE! CAMPHOR, QUICK!
PIP
PIP
NO PULSE.

THEN BRING THEM BACK!
BRAIN WAVES HAVE CEASED.
NO GOOD... IT'S NO GOOD ...
PWLIM
YOU CONCLUDE HE'S BRAIN-DEAD JUST BECAUSE WE'RE NOT GETTING BRAIN WAVES?
"NO GOOD"? DAMNED IF I'VE EVER WHINED LIKE THAT IN MY LIFE.
I NEED A BRIEF BREAK...
PAUSING SURGERY! KEEP UP THE HEART MASSAGE.
SHUT UP!
NO VITAL REACTIONS. DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE?
DETECTIVE HARRY!! GET RID OF THESE REPORTERS!

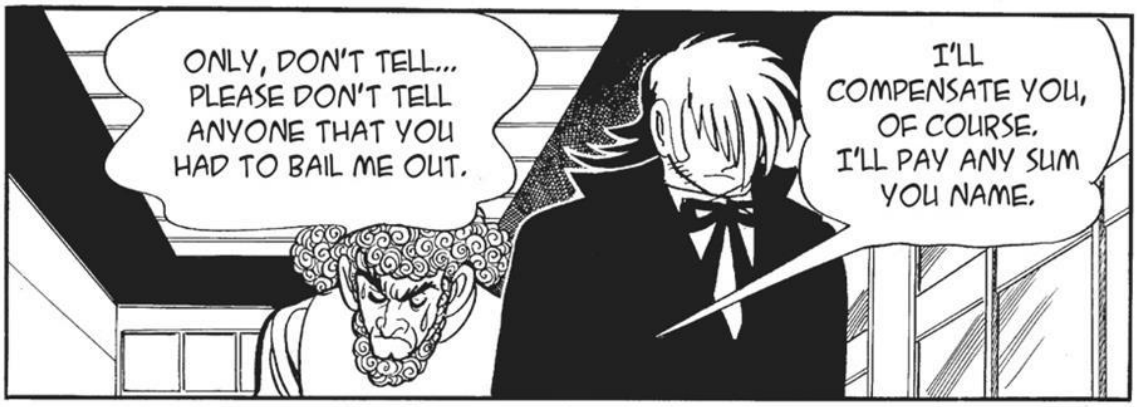
OFF WITH YOU. DOCTOR'S TAKING A BREAK.
GO, GO...
DAMMIT... TAKE A BREAK, AND THEN WHAT?
MRRG...
BLACK JACK ...
I'LL HAVE TO SWALLOW MY PRIDE.

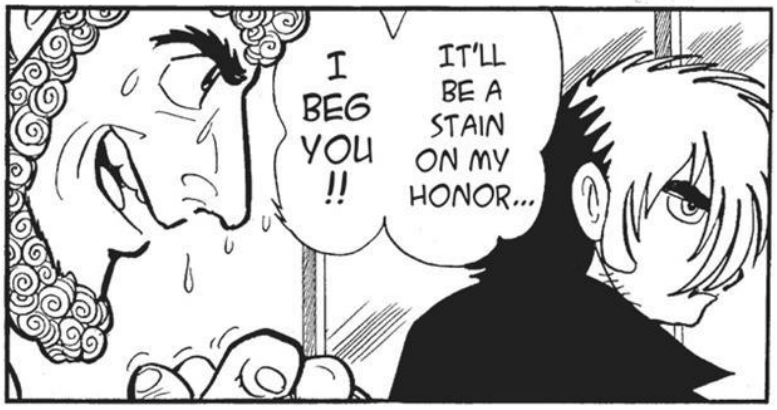
I'VE NEVER HAD A PATIENT DIE ON ME.
I AGREE IT'S BRAZEN OF ME. BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT DEFEAT— YOU KNOW THE FEELING.

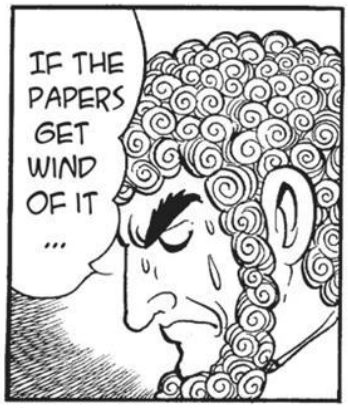
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

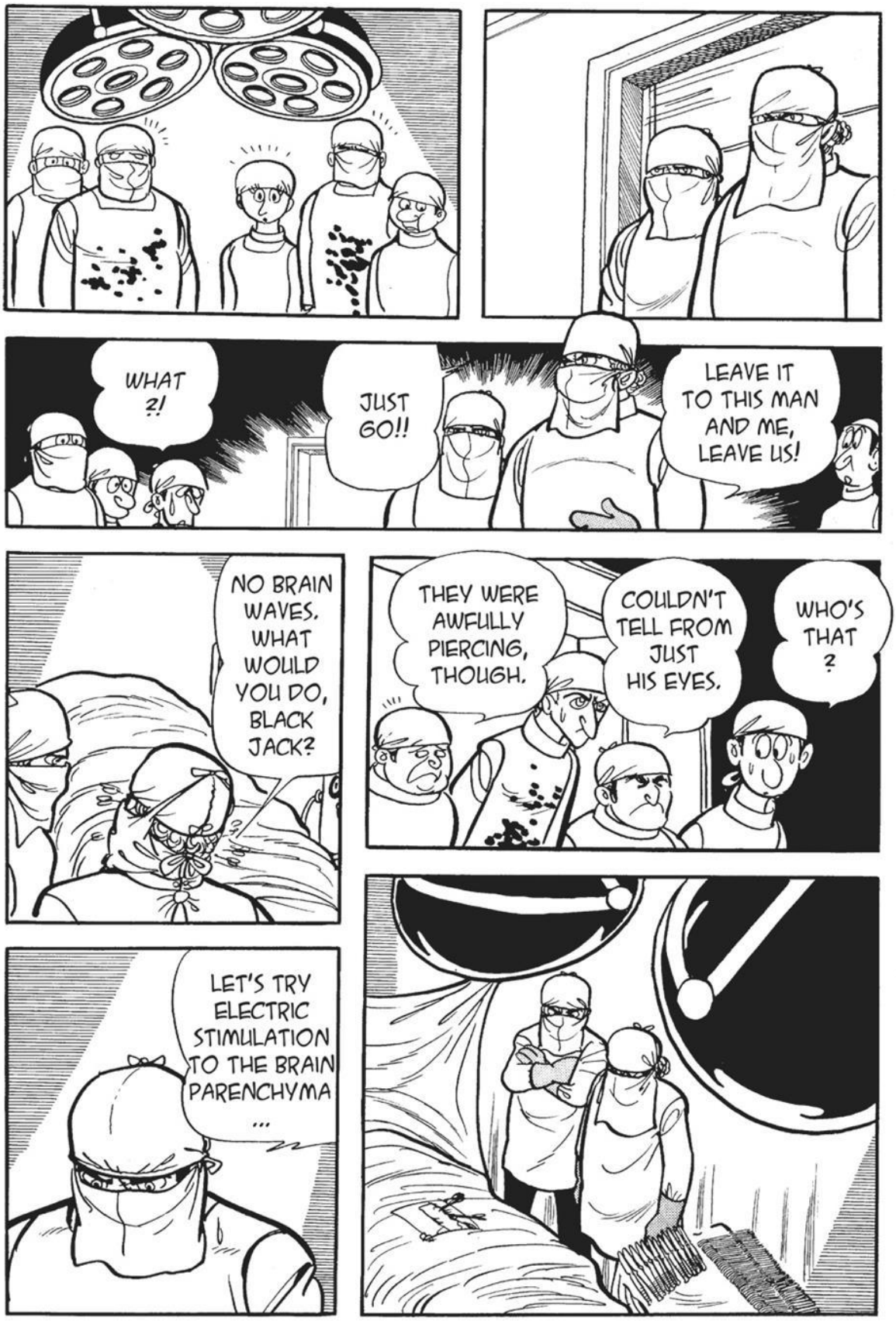
I TRUST IN YOUR SKILLS. AID ME.

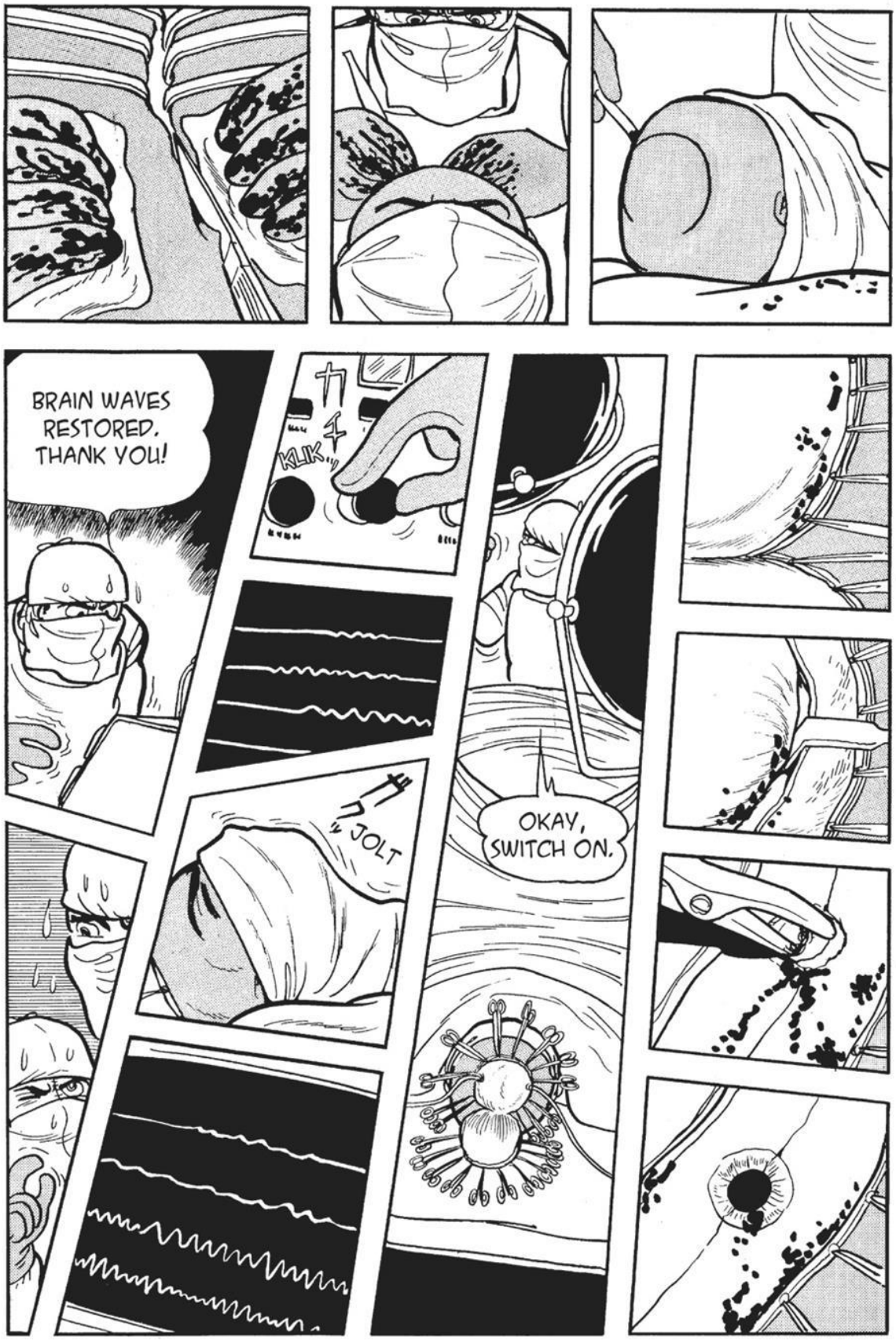
THE PATIENT IS AT DEATH'S DOOR!
PLEASE, HELP!! I NEED YOU!


ONLY, DON'T TELL... PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT YOU HAD TO BAIL ME OUT.
I'LL COMPENSATE YOU, OF COURSE. I'LL PAY ANY SUM YOU NAME.


I BEG YOU !!
IT'LL BE A STAIN ON MY HONOR...

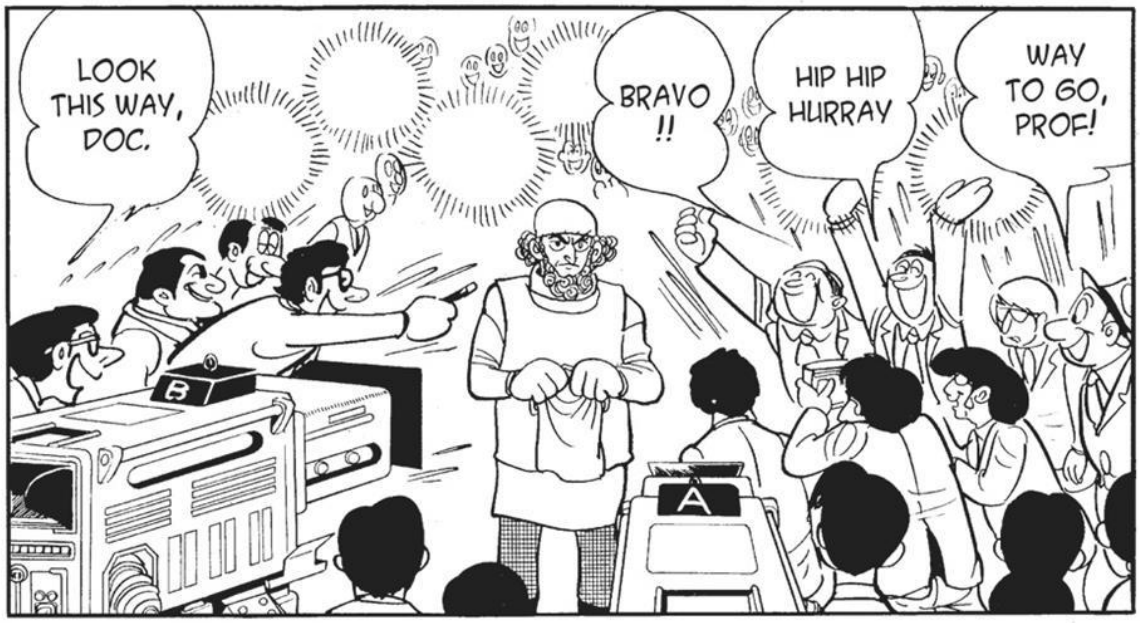

IF THE PAPERS GET WIND OF IT ...


WHAT ?!
JUST GO!!
LEAVE IT TO THIS MAN AND ME, LEAVE US!
NO BRAIN WAVES. WHAT WOULD YOU DO, BLACK JACK?
THEY WERE AWFULLY PIERCING, THOUGH.
COULDN'T TELL FROM JUST HIS EYES.
WHO'S THAT ?
LET'S TRY ELECTRIC STIMULATION TO THE BRAIN PARENCHYMA ...


BRAIN WAVES RESTORED. THANK YOU!
KLIK
JOLT
OKAY, SWITCH ON.

HE'S BEEN REVIVED.
YEAH
WOOHOO

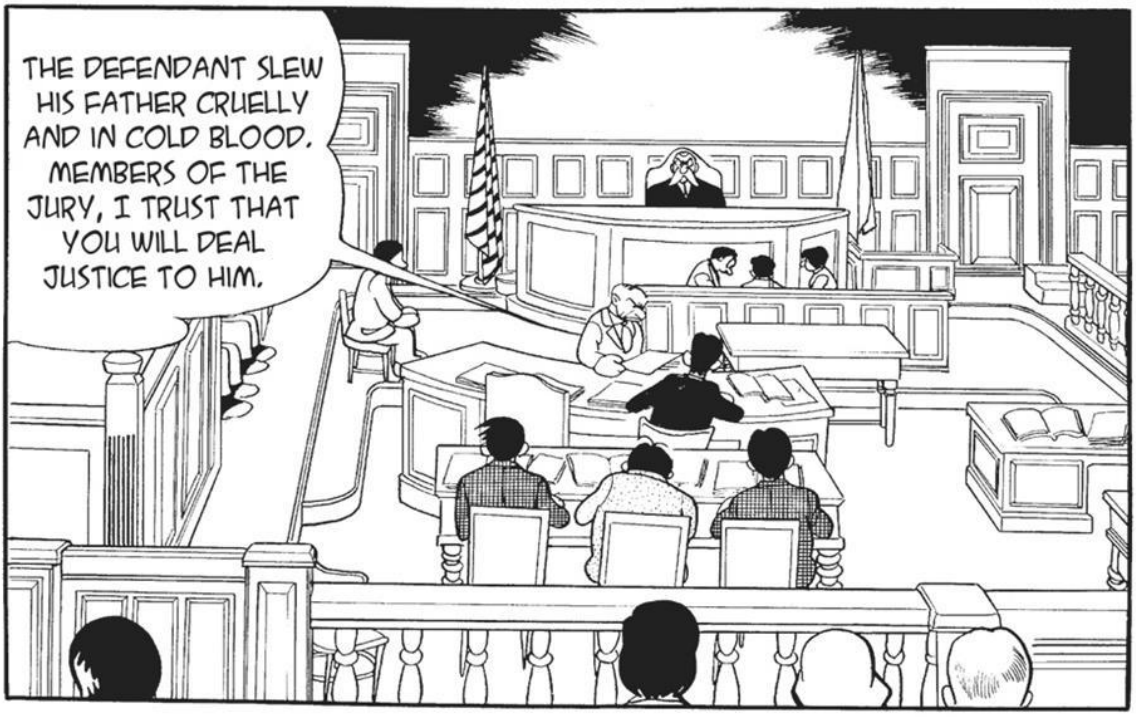
FLASH
FLASH


LOOK THIS WAY, DOC.
BRAVO !!
HIP HIP HURRAY
WAY TO GO, PROF!
B
A

SQUEEZE

HE'S TIRED, OF COURSE. ESCORT HIM TO THE HOTEL.

GA-BLE GA-BLE
UM, ARE YOU OKAY ?


THE DEFENDANT SLEW HIS FATHER CRUELLY AND IN COLD BLOOD. MEMBERS OF THE JURY, I TRUST THAT YOU WILL DEAL JUSTICE TO HIM.

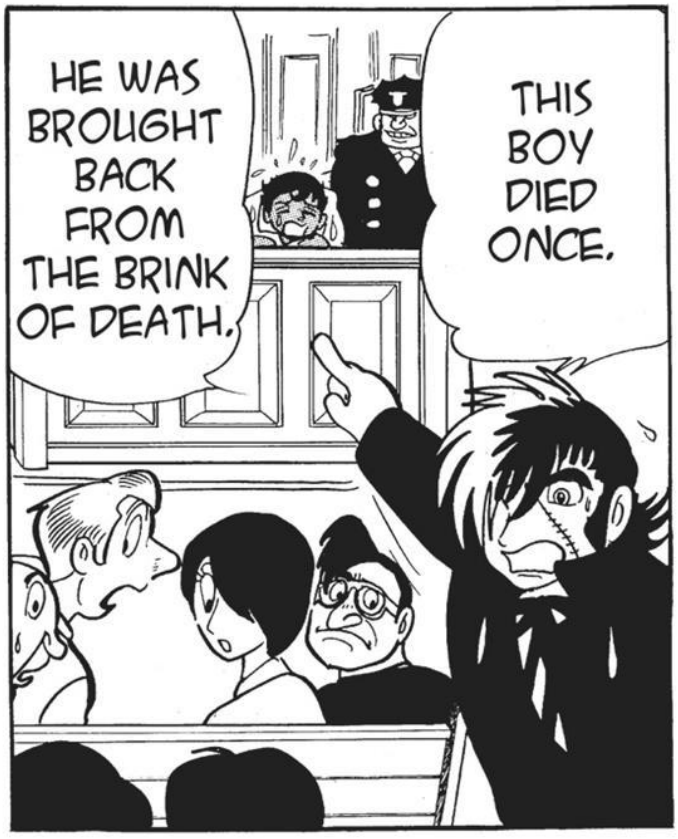
GUILTY

WE'VE ALREADY ARRIVED AT A CONSENSUS.

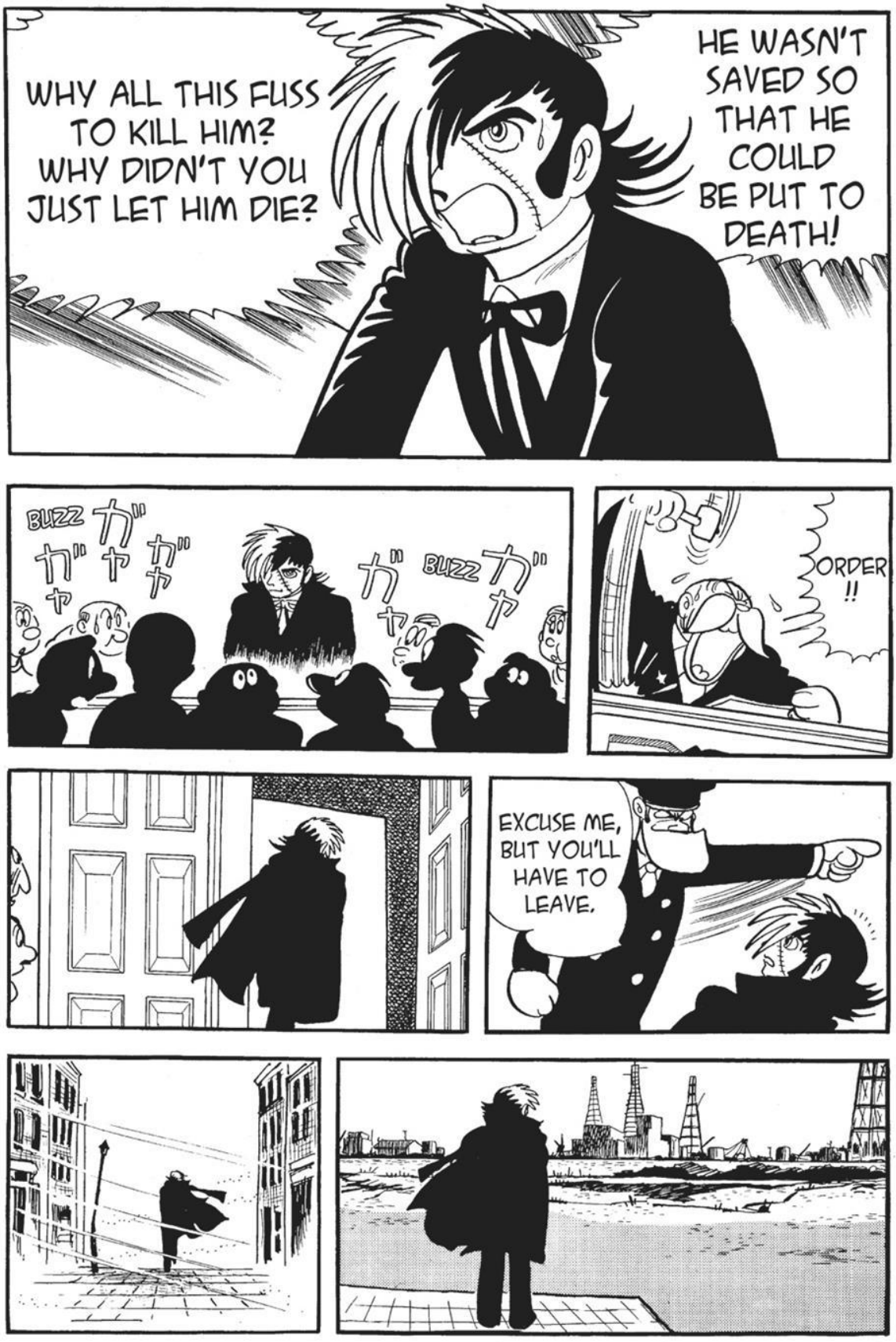
AND IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE SENTENCES HIM TO DEATH.
THIS U.S. COURT FINDS THE DEFENDANT GUILTY
VERDICT ...

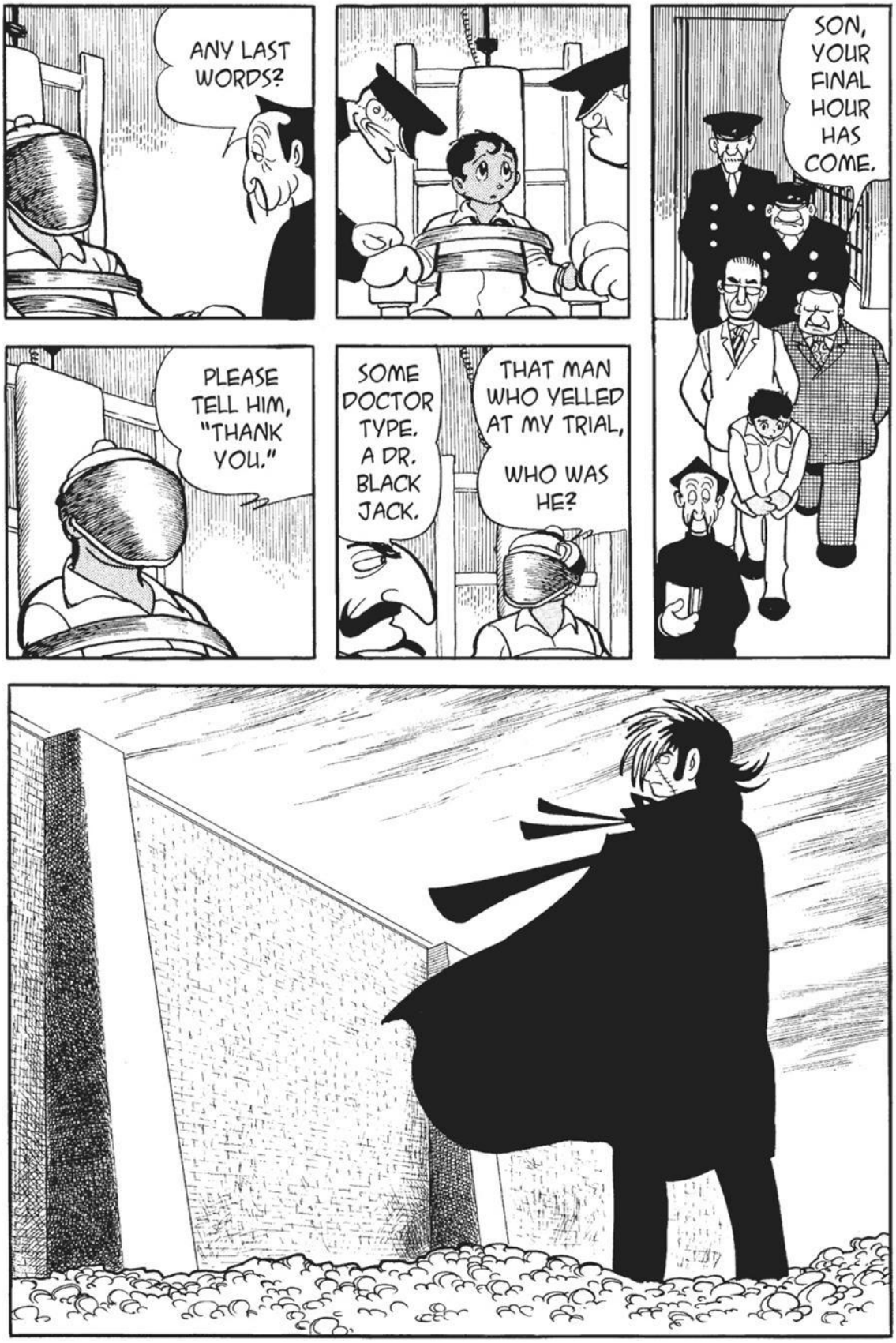
NO, NO!
"WEEP"
NO

NO!!


HE WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH.
THIS BOY DIED ONCE.

ALLOW ME A WORD.


WHY ALL THIS FUSS TO KILL HIM? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LET HIM DIE?
HE WASN'T SAVED SO THAT HE COULD BE PUT TO DEATH!
BUZZ ガヤガヤガヤ
ガヤ BUZZ ガヤ
ORDER !!
EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE.


ANY LAST WORDS?
SON, YOUR FINAL HOUR HAS COME.
PLEASE TELL HIM, "THANK YOU."
SOME DOCTOR TYPE. A DR. BLACK JACK.
THAT MAN WHO YELLED AT MY TRIAL, WHO WAS HE?

LION-FACE DISEASE

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR PRACTICING WITHOUT A LICENSE. I HAVE A WARRANT!
I'M WITH METRO POL.

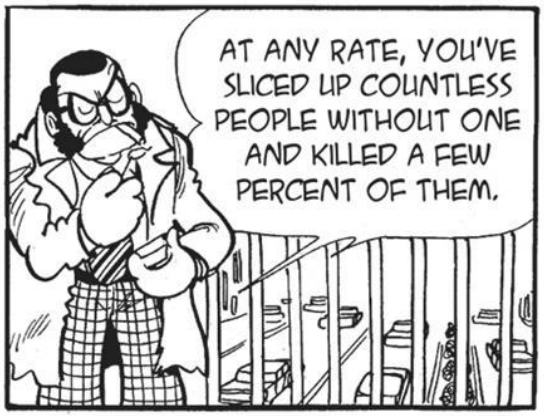
ARE YOU BLACK JACK?

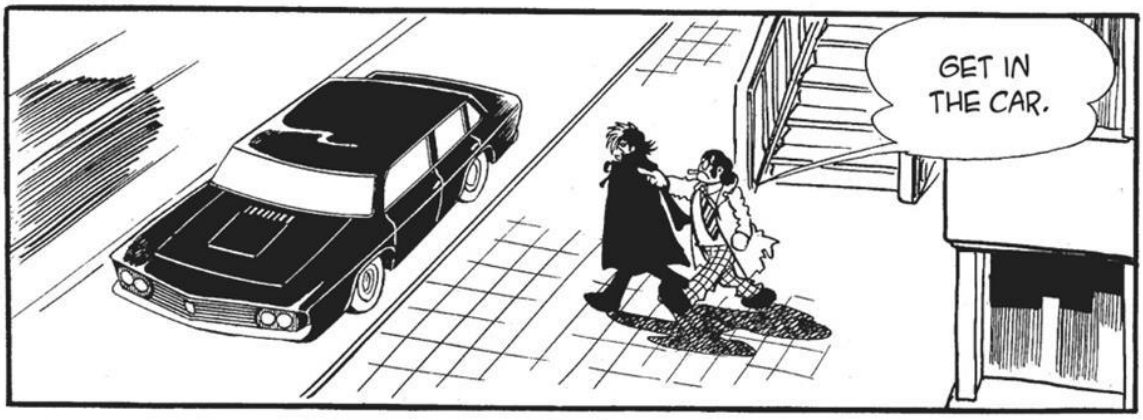
HEHEH, FOUND YOU AT LAST.

THIS IS KIND OF SUDDEN, ISN'T IT?

...
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TRIED TO GET YOUR LICENSE?
YOU'RE NOT UNKNOWN AS A DOCTOR.

...
YOU THINK IT'S JUST FINE FOR SUCH A FELLOW TO COOLLY STRUT ABOUT UNDER THE SUN?


AT ANY RATE, YOU'VE SLICED UP COUNTLESS PEOPLE WITHOUT ONE AND KILLED A FEW PERCENT OF THEM.

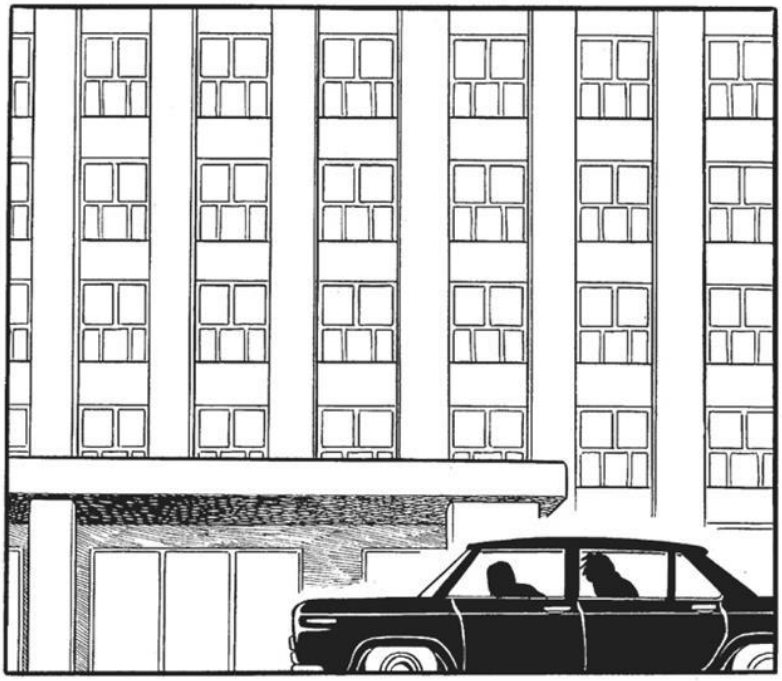

GET IN THE CAR.

MY SON...
WANNA KNOW WHY I WON'T LET IT GO?

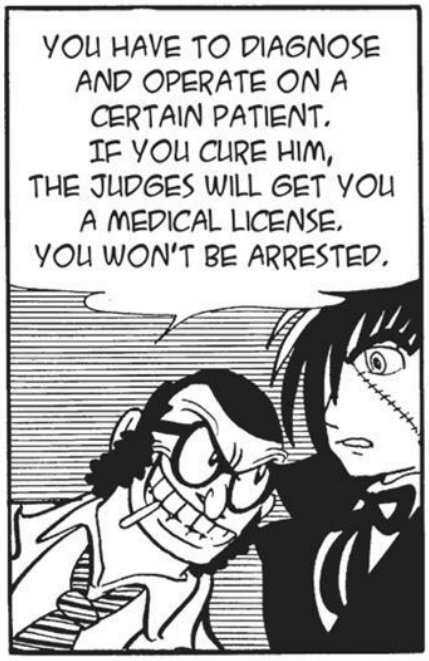
THAT'S WHY I HATE YOUR SORT!

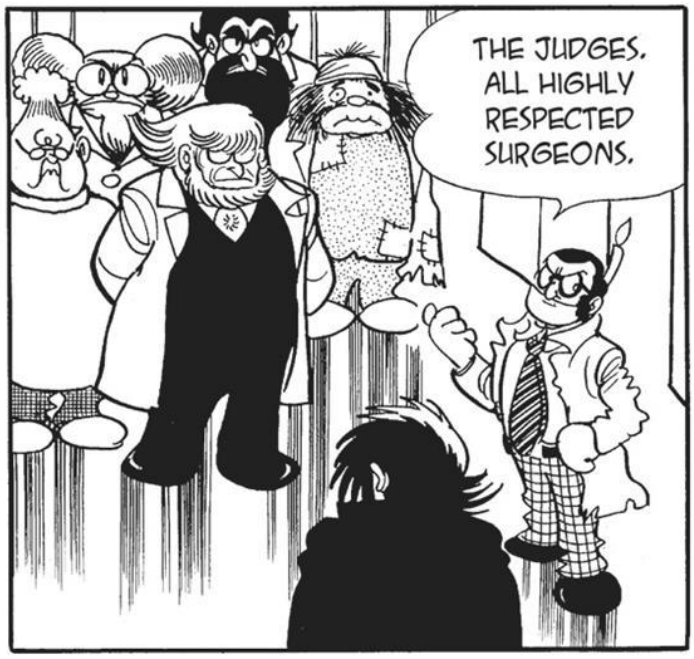
HE NOT ONLY WASN'T CURED. HE GOT MESSED UP BAD.
WAS TREATED BY A FAKE LIKE YOU...

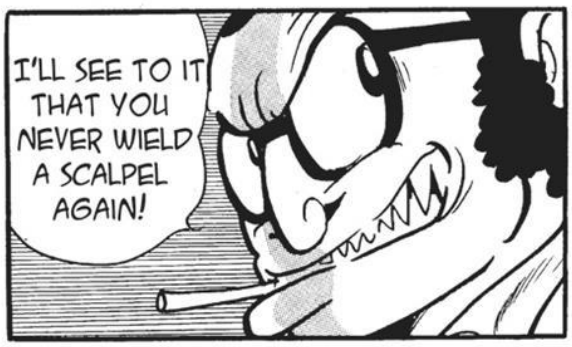
WHAT'S THIS?



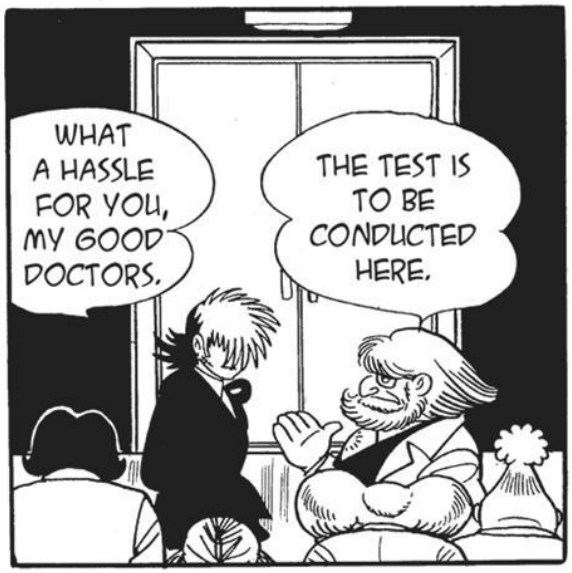
LISTEN UP. I'M GONNA TEST YOU.
I THOUGHT WE WERE HEADED FOR POLICE HQ. THIS IS A HOSPITAL.

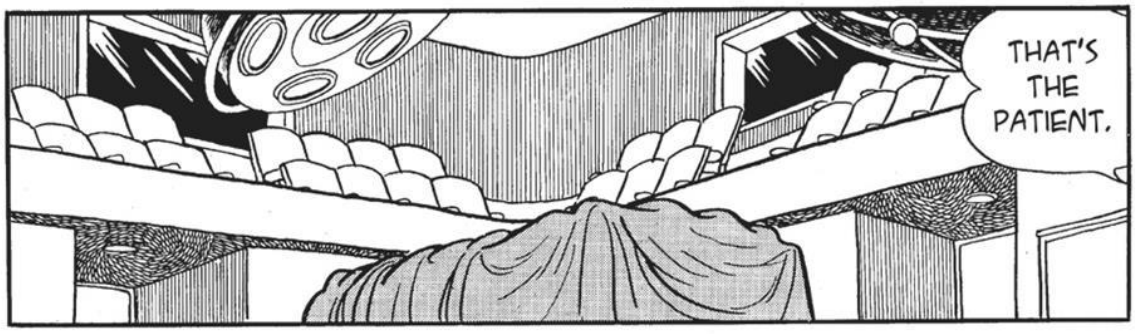

YOU HAVE TO DIAGNOSE AND OPERATE ON A CERTAIN PATIENT. IF YOU CURE HIM, THE JUDGES WILL GET YOU A MEDICAL LICENSE. YOU WON'T BE ARRESTED.


THE JUDGES. ALL HIGHLY RESPECTED SURGEONS.


I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER WIELD A SCALPEL AGAIN!

THEN ON TO PRISON. YOU'LL NEVER PRACTICE AGAIN. THE END.
IF THE DIAGNOSIS OR SURGERY IS QUESTIONABLE, YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO GO ON, AND YOU GO STRAIGHT TO JAIL.


WHAT A HASSLE FOR YOU, MY GOOD DOCTORS.
THE TEST IS TO BE CONDUCTED HERE.


THAT'S THE PATIENT.

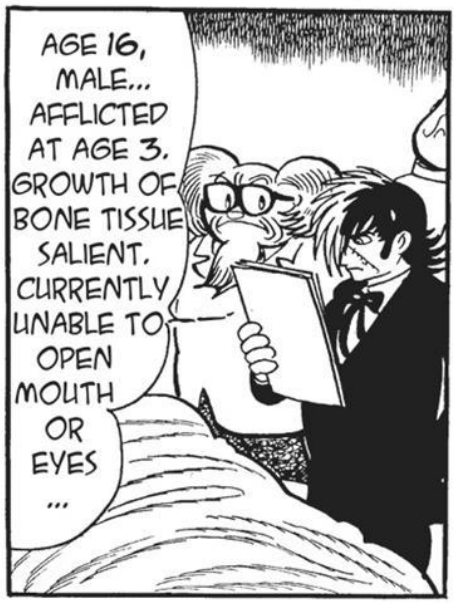
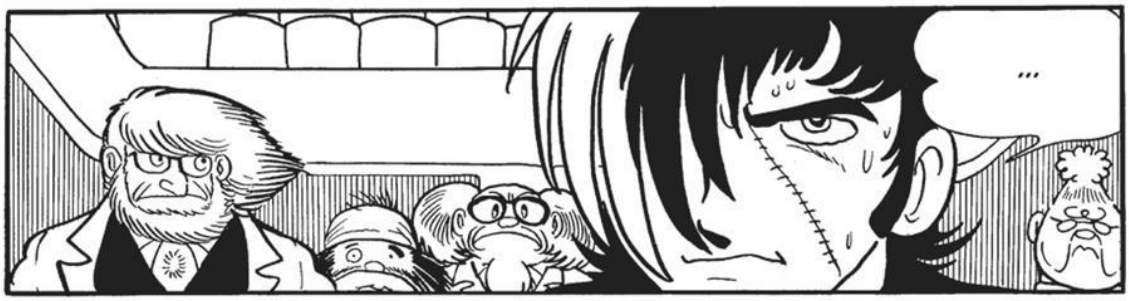
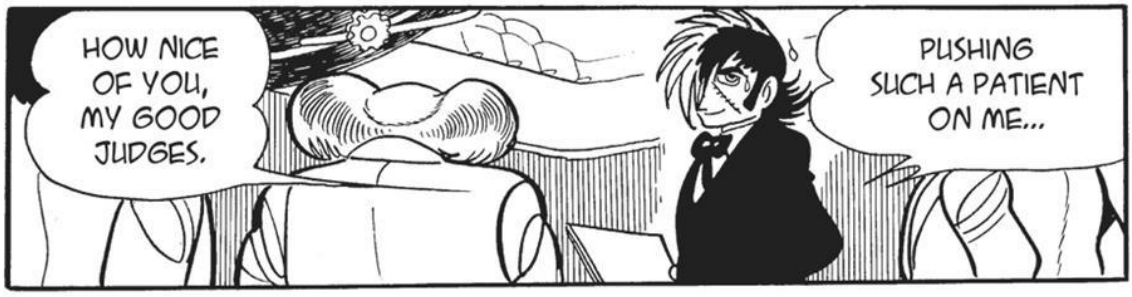
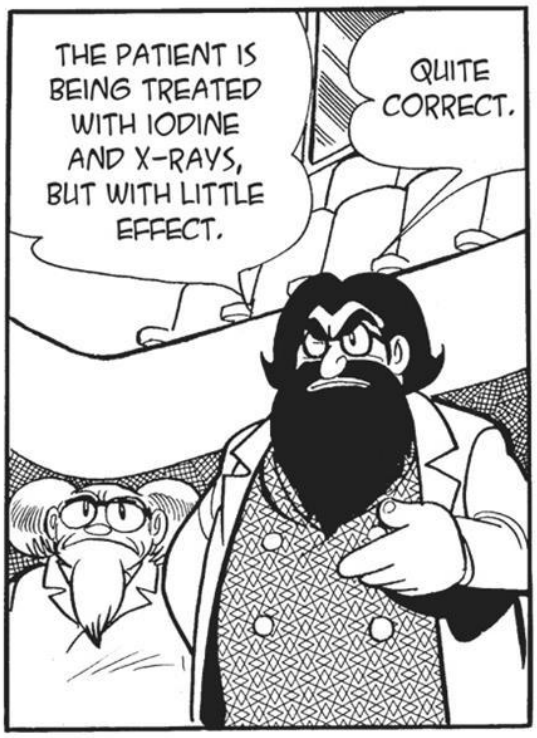

AGE 16, MALE... AFFLICTED AT AGE 3. GROWTH OF BONE TISSUE SALIENT. CURRENTLY UNABLE TO OPEN MOUTH OR EYES ...

CHART...

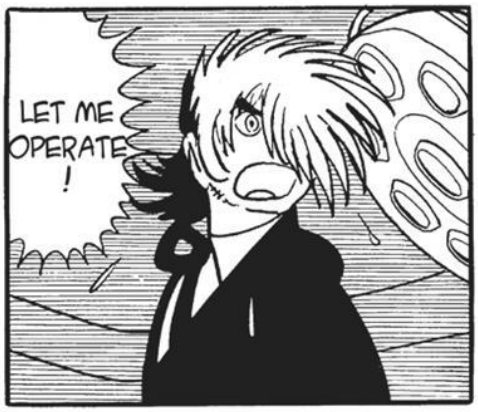
LION-FACE DISEASE!



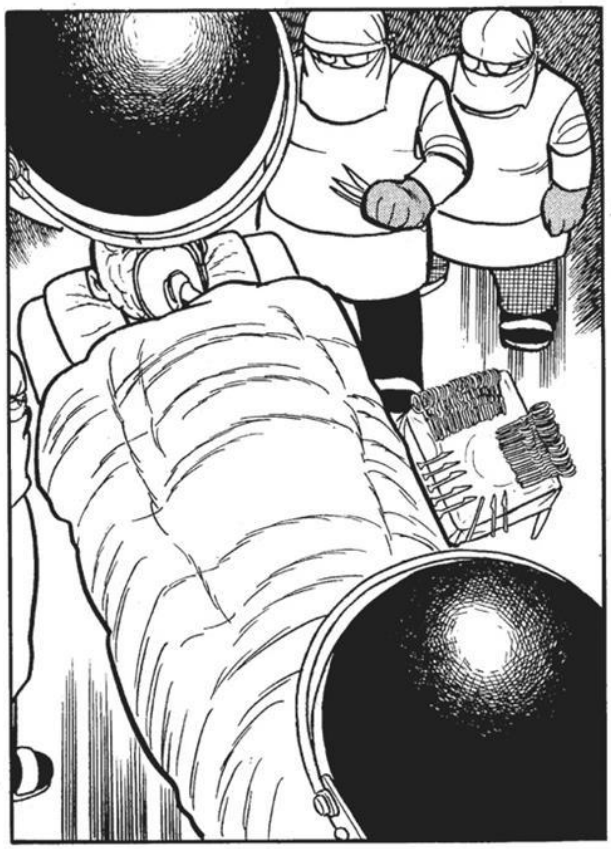


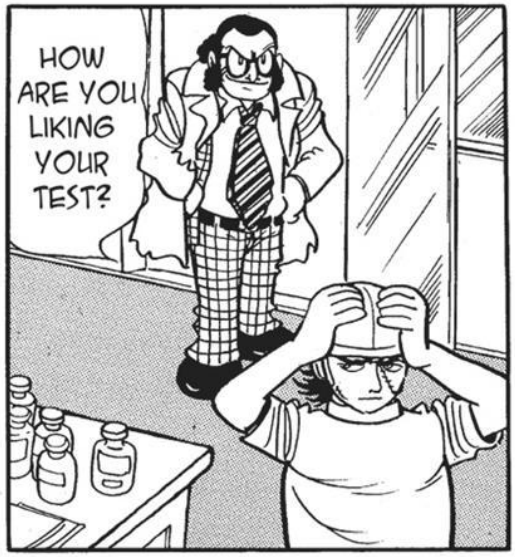


NOTE: SINCE *LION-FACE DISEASE* ("SHISHIMEN BYO") IS REPHRASED AS *PAGET'S DISEASE*, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE DISTINCT FROM LEONITIS, WHOSE MEDICAL NAME IS CRANIODIAPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA (CDD).


LET ME OPERATE!

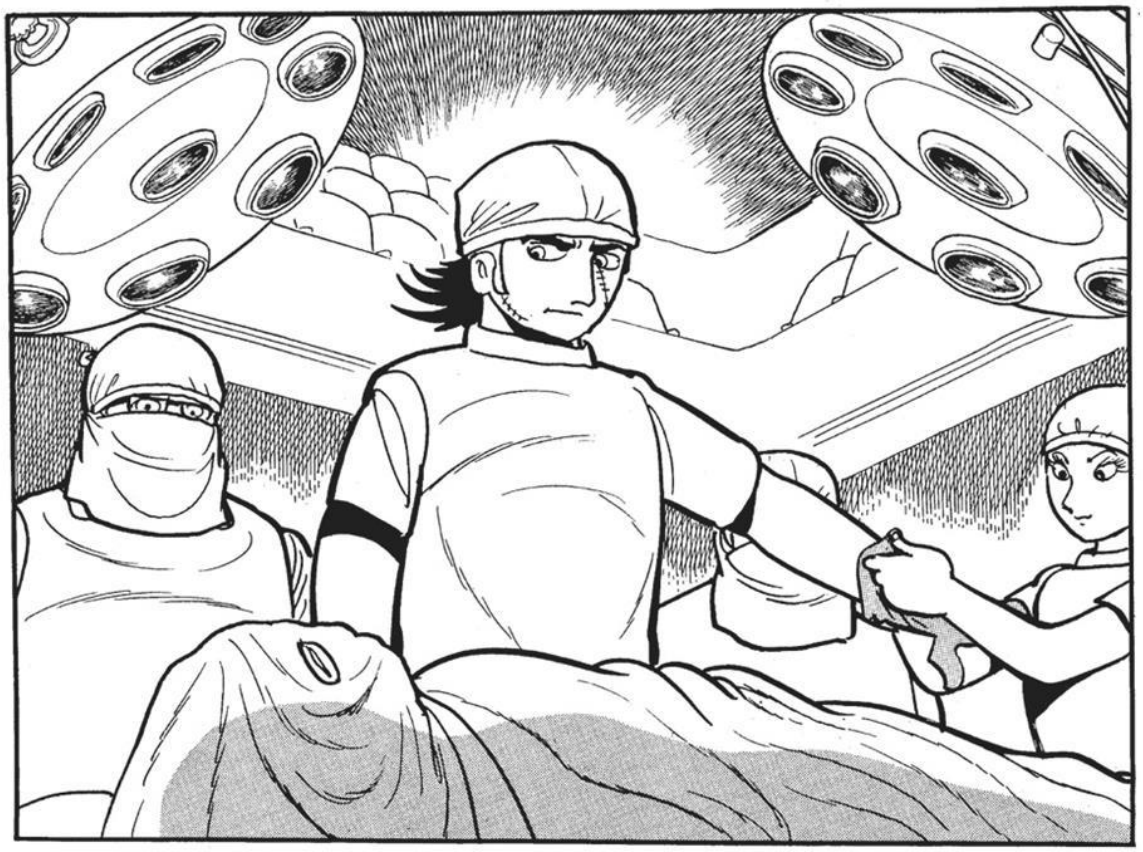
IT WILL SIMPLY GROW BACK.
LET ME TELL YOU, IT'S NO USE REMOVING THE BONE TISSUE.



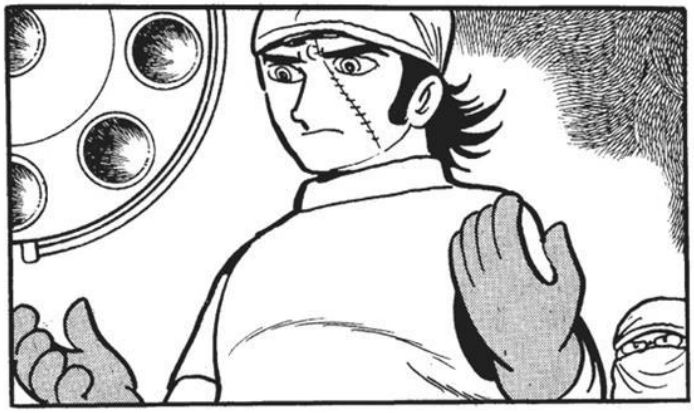

HOW ARE YOU LIKING YOUR TEST?

HAVE YOU SAID ENOUGH?

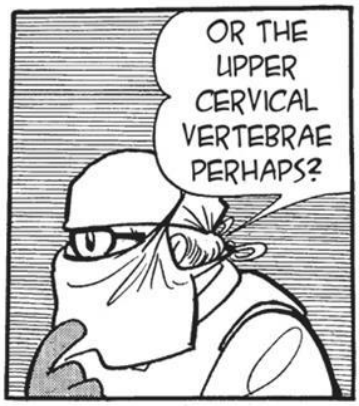
THEN QUIT, PHONY.
IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO IT,



DO YOU WANT TO START WITH THE SPINE?

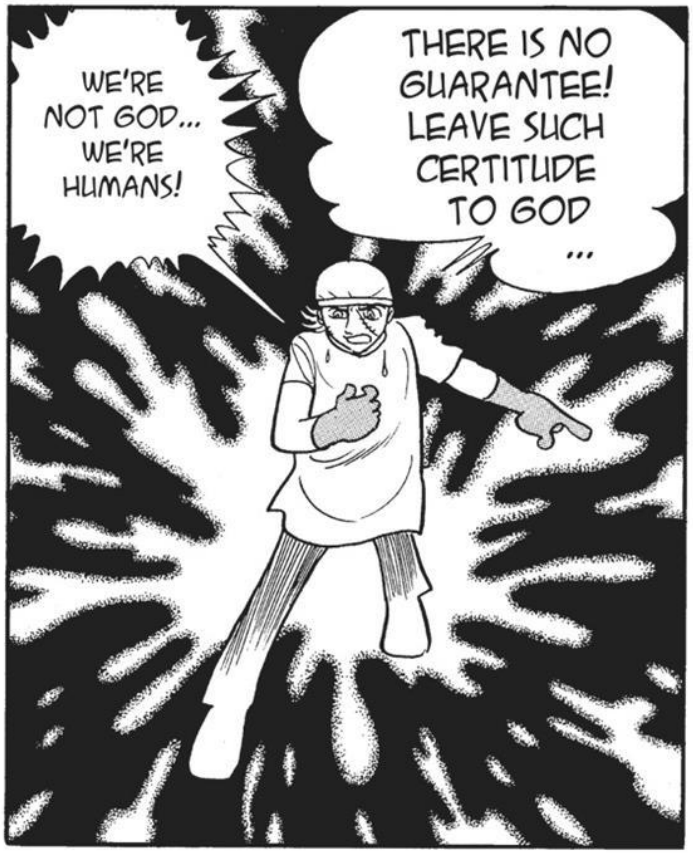


WHAT ?!
I WILL OPERATE ON THE BRAIN.


OR THE UPPER CERVICAL VERTEBRAE PERHAPS?

REMOVING THE PITUITARY GLAND WON'T CURE HIM. THIS ISN'T JUST A SWELLING OF THE EXTREMITIES.
NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A PROCE-DURE.
I WILL REPLACE PART OF THE PITUITARY WITH A RADIUM CHIP!
I CURED THREE OF THEM. THE OTHER TWO DIED.
BUT I'VE OPERATED ON FIVE CASES OF PAGET'S DISEASE, IN AFRICA.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND MYSELF WHY IT WORKS...
WE WON'T LET YOU WAGER WITH A PATIENT'S LIFE!
YOU COULD SAY SO.
IS THIS A WAGER ?
DO YOU PERFORM SURGERY WITH SOME GUARANTEE THAT THE PATIENT WILL BE CURED?
DON'T YOU WAGER TOO WHEN YOU OPERATE?!

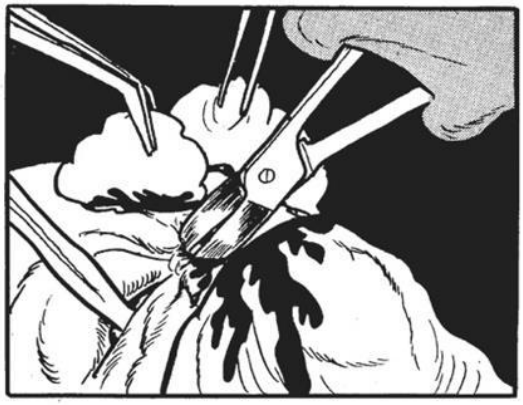
A MERE HUMAN TRYING TO TREAT ANOTHER HUMAN...


WE'RE NOT GOD... WE'RE HUMANS!
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE! LEAVE SUCH CERTITUDE TO GOD ...

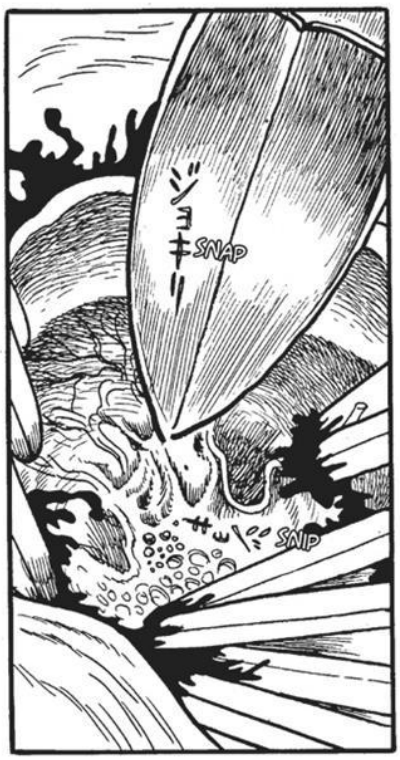
WHAT IS THAT IF NOT A WAGER?

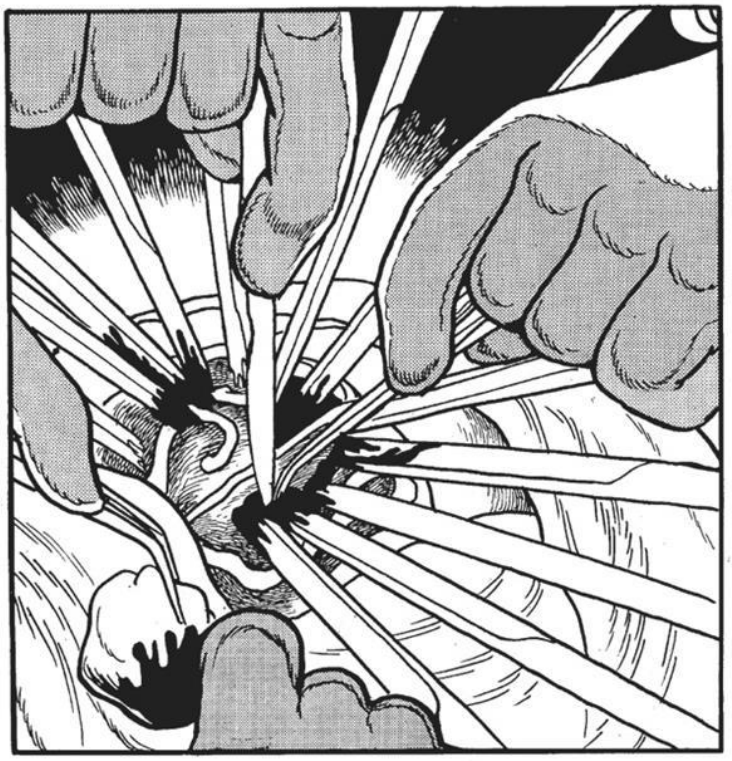
NO, LET US BEGIN!

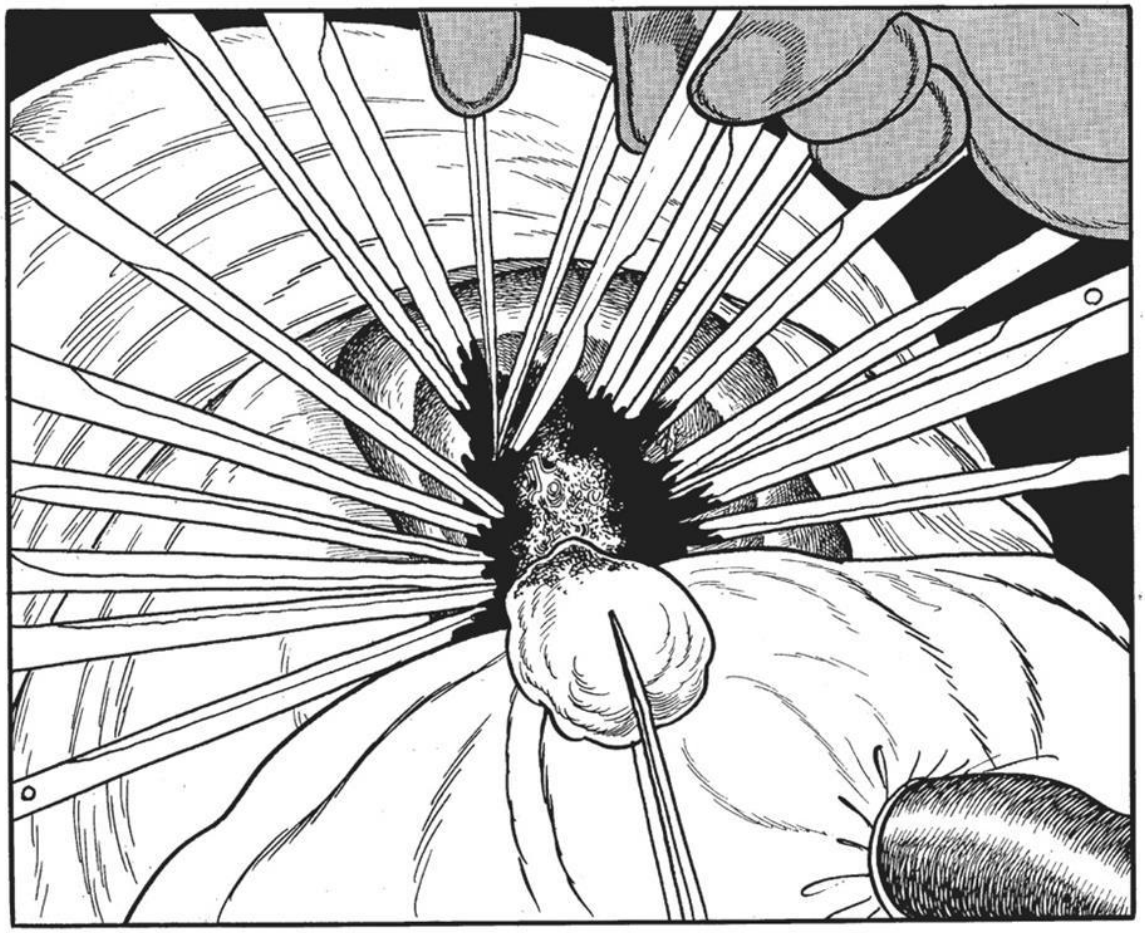
UNLESS YOU WANT TO HAVE ME ARRESTED ...
NOW LET'S DO THIS...



LISTON BONE-CUTTING FORCEPS!

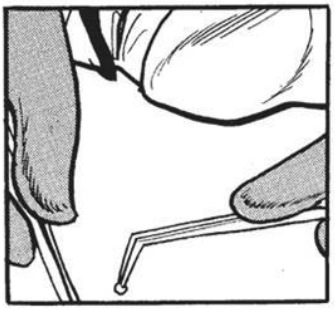

ジョキリ
SNAP
SNIP

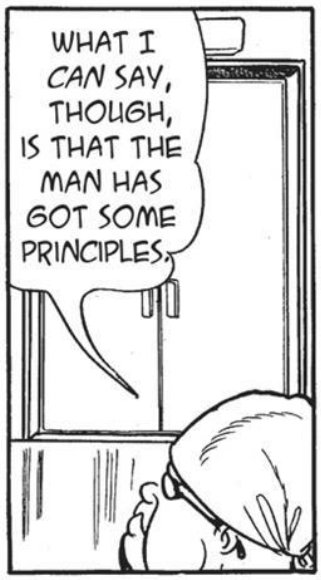




RADIUM CHIP PLEASE.
EXCISED
FROM HERE ON I'LL WORK ALONE.
GELATIN SPONGE!
FORCEPS!

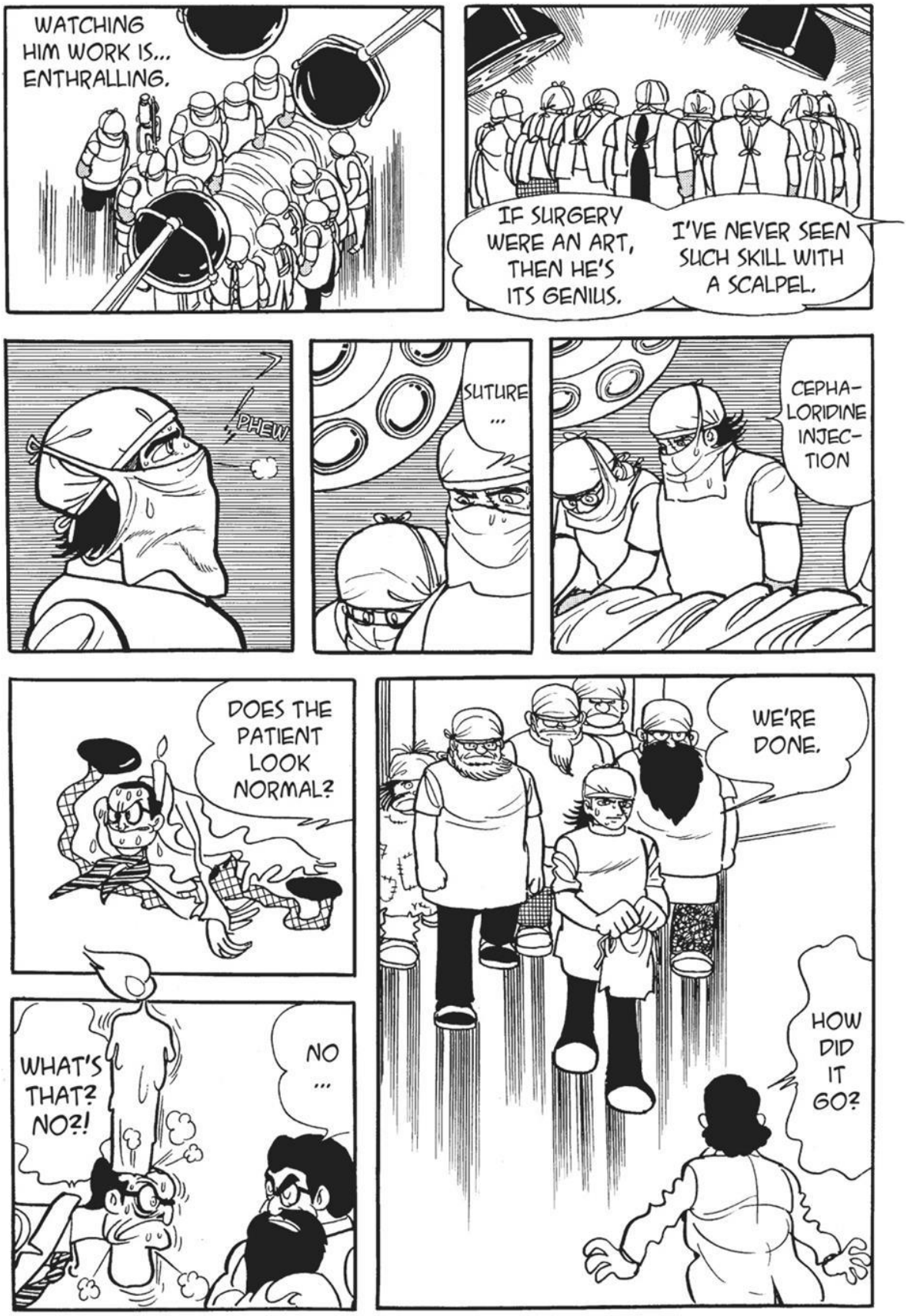
GRIN

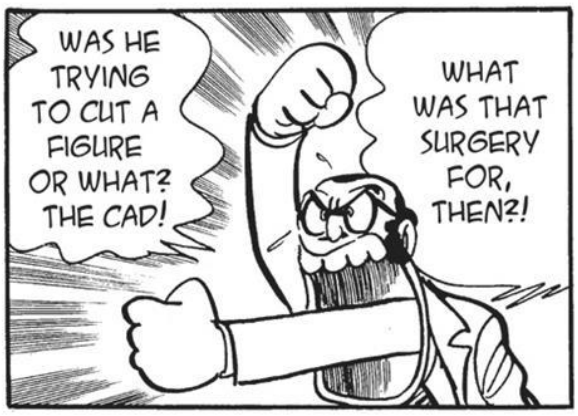



WHAT I CAN SAY, THOUGH, IS THAT THE MAN HAS GOT SOME PRINCIPLES.

THAT'S HARD TO SAY ...
WILL THE PATIENT GET BETTER?

HE'S VERY GOOD!
HOW GOES IT, DOC?


WATCHING HIM WORK IS... ENTHRALLING.
IF SURGERY WERE AN ART, THEN HE'S ITS GENIUS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SKILL WITH A SCALPEL.
PHEW
SUTURE ...
CEPHA-LORIDINE INJEC-TION
DOES THE PATIENT LOOK NORMAL?
WHAT'S THAT? NO?!
NO ...
WE'RE DONE.
HOW DID IT GO?


WAS HE TRYING TO CUT A FIGURE OR WHAT? THE CAD!
WHAT WAS THAT SURGERY FOR, THEN?!

HE LOOKS JUST THE SAME.

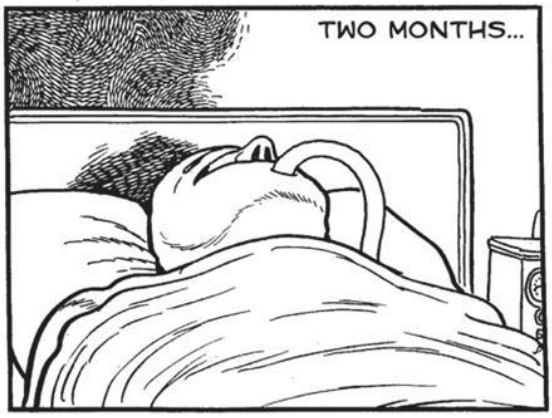
WE CAN'T SAY YEA OR NAY UNTIL THEN.
WE'LL GIVE IT THREE MONTHS.

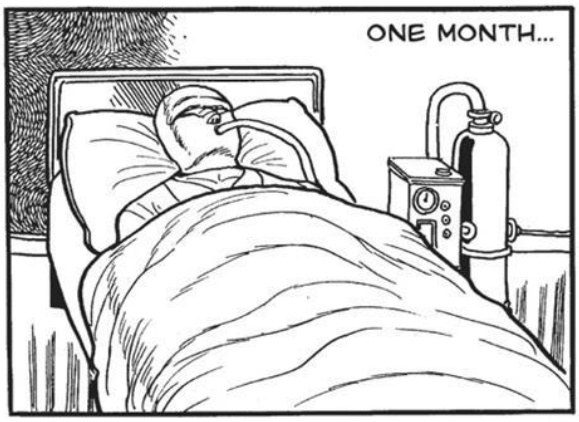
WE DON'T KNOW IF HE FAILED...
CALM DOWN, SIR.

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

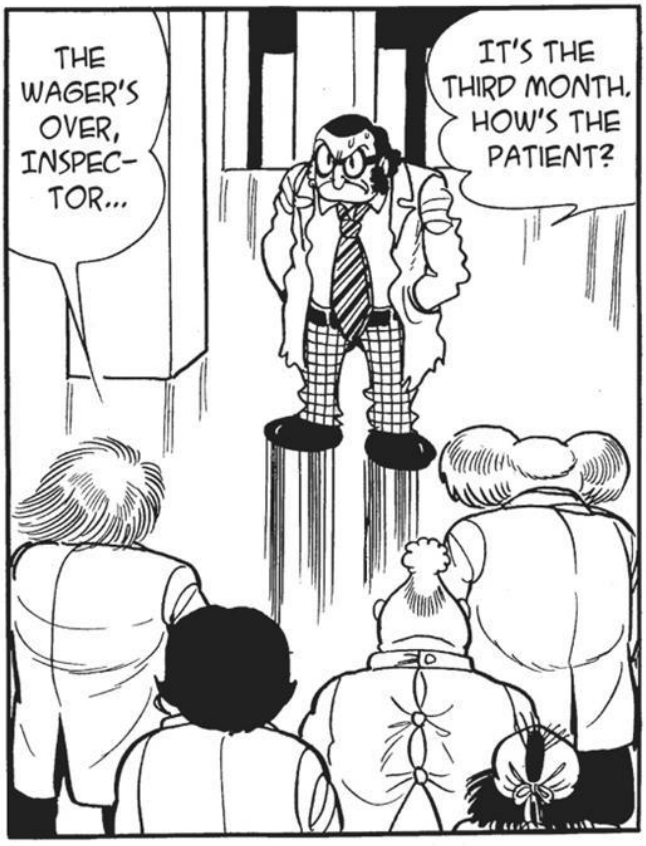
SEE YOU IN THREE MONTHS, INSPECTOR.

THE FAKE ...


TWO MONTHS...


ONE MONTH...

AND ??


THE WAGER'S OVER, INSPECTOR...
IT'S THE THIRD MONTH. HOW'S THE PATIENT?

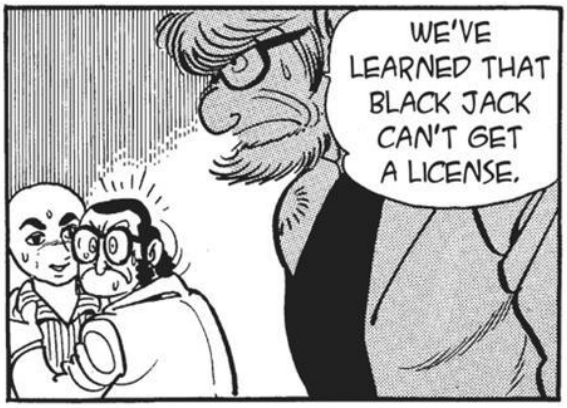
PAPA ...

UH

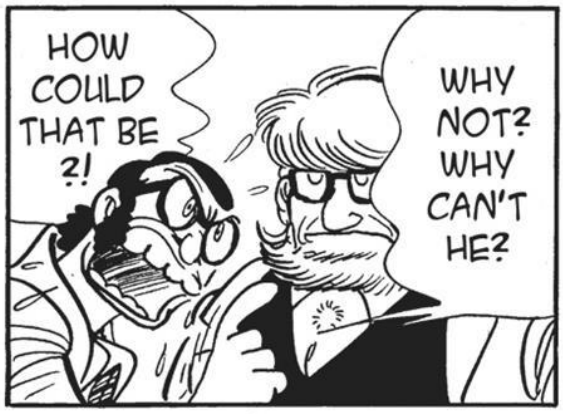
THAT MAN IS A GREAT SURGEON. WE HAVE FILED FOR A LICENSE ON HIS BEHALF.
YOUR FACE... YOU'RE CURED!

SON!! M-MY SON...!

HAVING HIM OPERATE ON YOUR SON, WHOM NOBODY COULD CURE... HARDLY FAIR.
BUT THIS TEST WASN'T FAIR FOR HIM.


WE'VE LEARNED THAT BLACK JACK CAN'T GET A LICENSE.

WHAT? YOU CAN'T GRANT HIM A LICENSE?


HOW COULD THAT BE ?!
WHY NOT? WHY CAN'T HE?

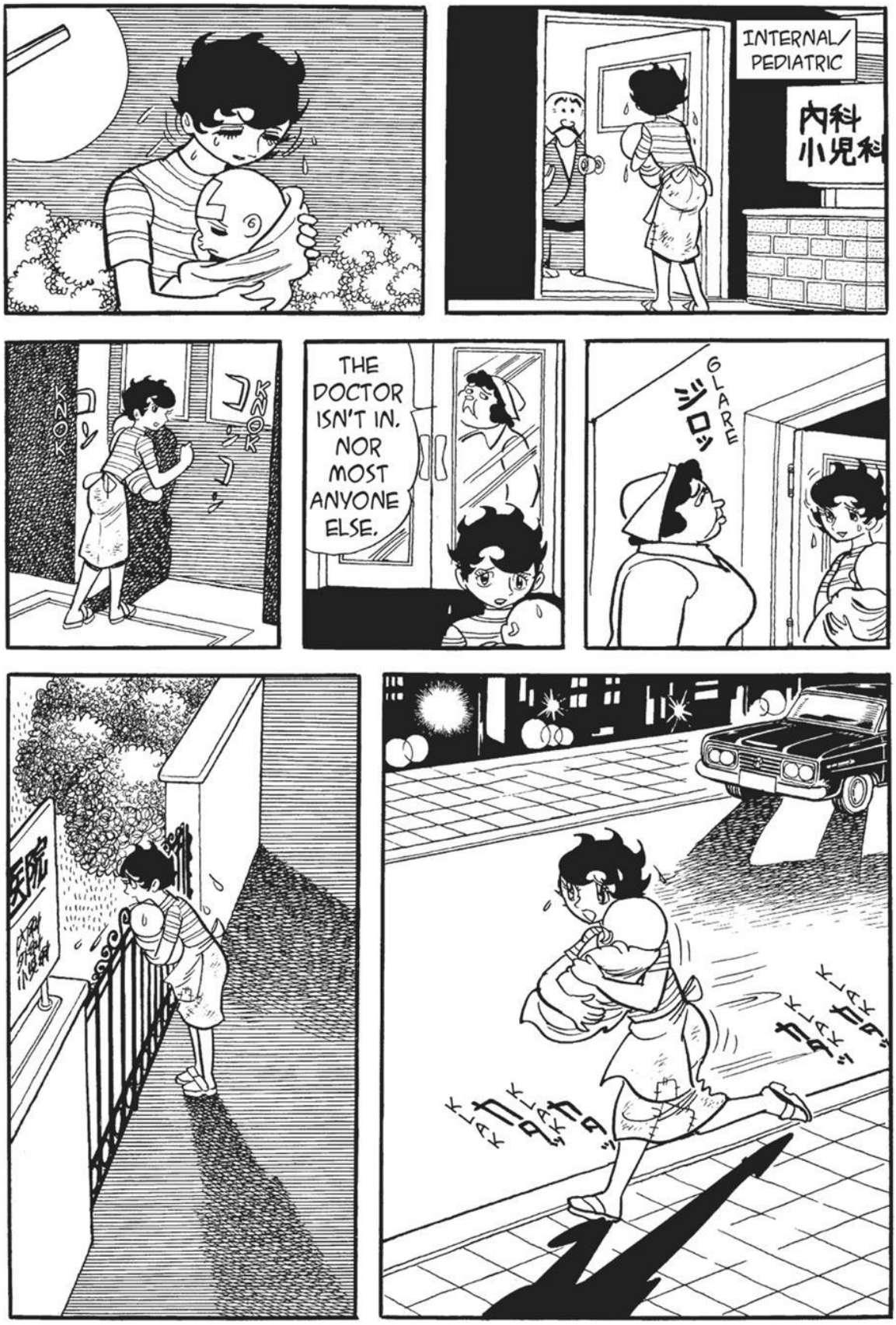
THAT'S WHY HE'S UNLICENSED ...
HE SCARES PATIENTS INTO PAYING EXORBITANT FEES. THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS.

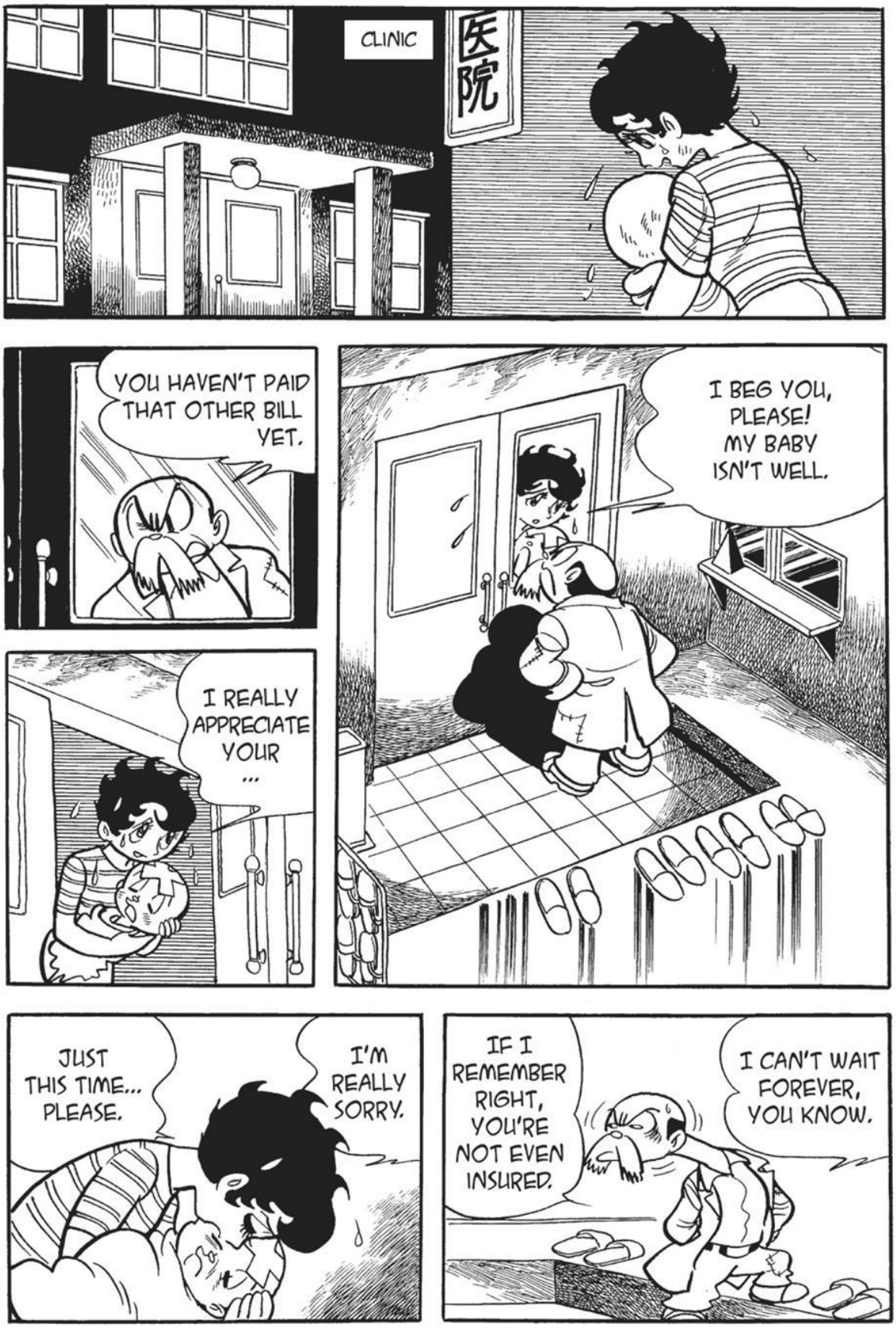
ALL OVER THE WORLD TOO ...
HE'S BEEN THREATENING PATIENTS.

HE SAVES PEOPLE! HE SAVES HUMAN LIVES!!
BUT LOOK AT WHAT HE DOES!

...

CON MAN, ASPIRING


INTERNAL/
PEDIATRIC
内科
小児科
KNOCK
コンコン
KNOCK
コンコン
THE DOCTOR ISN'T IN. NOR MOST ANYONE ELSE.
GLARE
ジロッ
医院
KLACK
KLACK
KLACK
KLACK
KLACK


CLINIC
医院
YOU HAVEN'T PAID THAT OTHER BILL YET.
I BEG YOU, PLEASE! MY BABY ISN'T WELL.
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR ...
JUST THIS TIME... PLEASE.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, YOU'RE NOT EVEN INSURED.
I CAN'T WAIT FOREVER, YOU KNOW.

LET ME TELL YOU, THOUGH... WE DOCTORS TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING, BUT WE'RE BUSINESSES.

OKAY, COME ON IN.
TSK !

UH OH, CYANOSIS. THIS IS NOT GOOD ...

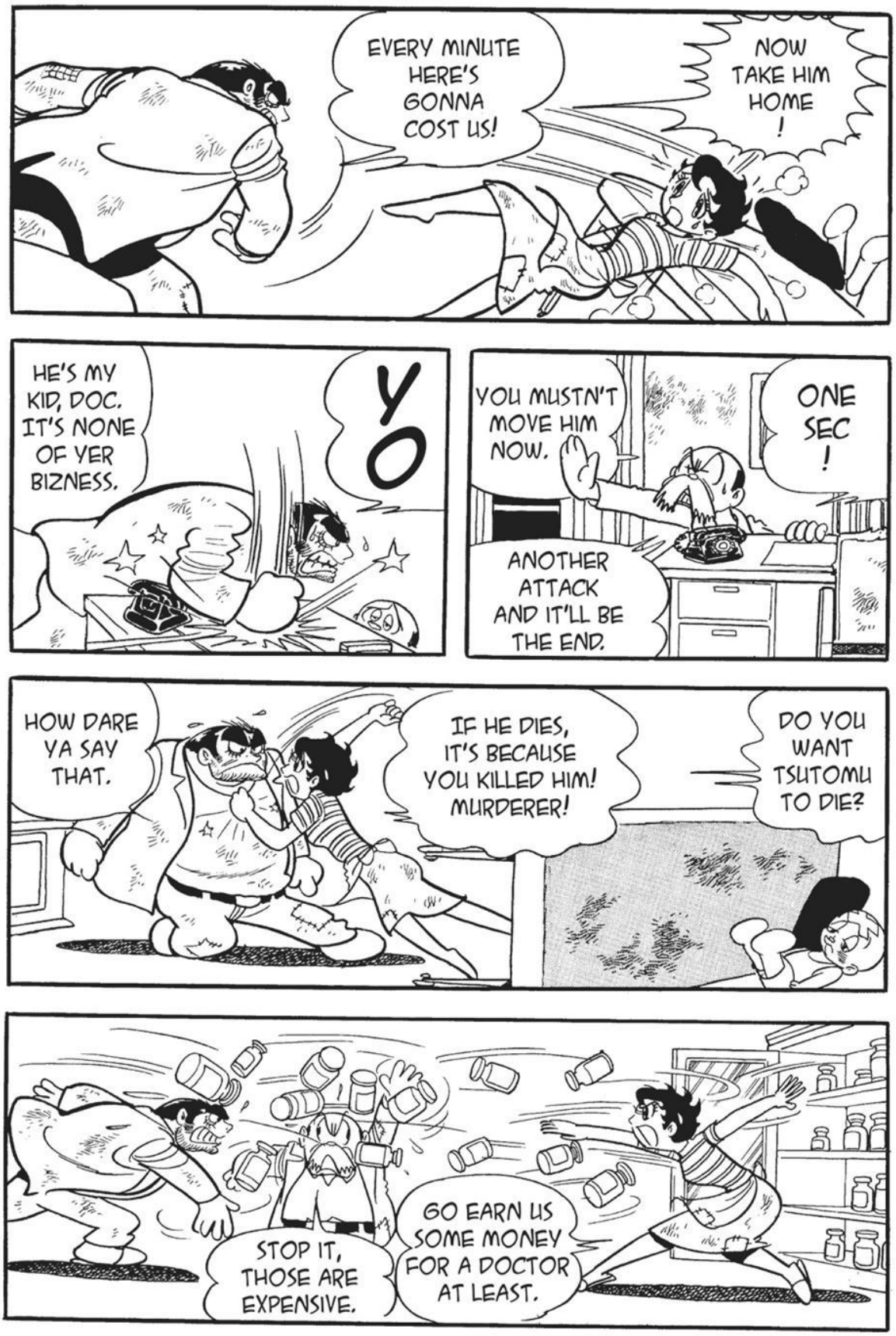
UN-CLOTHE HIM.

HEY!! IS MA WIFE HERE ?!

HE'S HAD A HEART ATTACK !
YOU CAN'T COME HERE WITH SUCH A SERIOUS CASE.

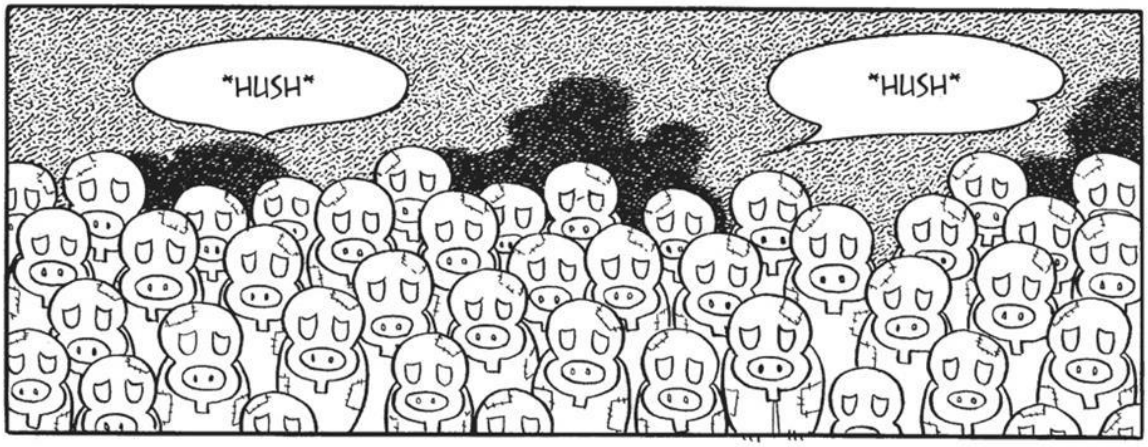
BAM
SLAM

I ASKED IF MA WIFE'S HERE !!
LOOK AT YOU, DEAR ...
WHAM
WE AIN'T GOT THE MONEY FOR IT !
LEMME TELL YA THEN !
WHO SAID HE COULD SEE A DOCTOR ?
SHUT UP. TAKE THE KID AND GO HOME.
DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO TSUTOMU?


EVERY MINUTE HERE'S GONNA COST US!
NOW TAKE HIM HOME !
HE'S MY KID, DOC. IT'S NONE OF YER BIZNESS.
YO
YOU MUSTN'T MOVE HIM NOW.
ONE SEC !
ANOTHER ATTACK AND IT'LL BE THE END.
HOW DARE YA SAY THAT.
IF HE DIES, IT'S BECAUSE YOU KILLED HIM! MURDERER!
DO YOU WANT TSUTOMU TO DIE?
STOP IT, THOSE ARE EXPENSIVE.
GO EARN US SOME MONEY FOR A DOCTOR AT LEAST.

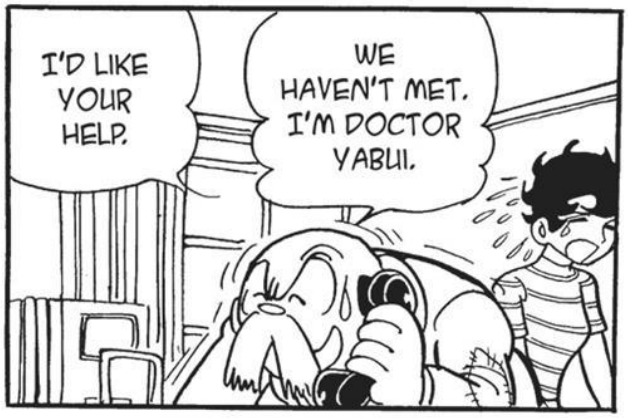
やめんか!

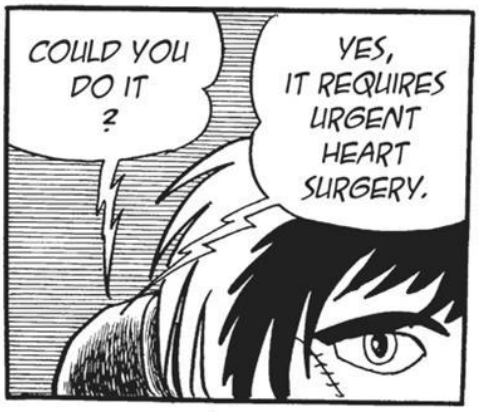
STOP IT!



I CAME DOWN WITH PERITONITIS.
MY PALS TOOK ME TO ONE DOCTOR AFTER ANOTHER.
DOC, ONCE UPON A TIME ...
MY WHITES WERE SHOWIN' AN' I WAS FAINTIN' ...
THEY ALL REFUSED TA TAKE ME IN. THE DOC WAS OUT OR THE ROOMS WERE FULL.
YOU KNOW WHAT ALL THE HOSPITALS SAID? AFTER SEEING ME AN' HEARING MY PALS?
BUT NO SERVICE FOR A POOR MAN.
CLOSED
CHARGED ME LIKE NUTS EVERY MONTH AFTER I GOT BETTER.
THE CHARITY HOSPITAL THAT FINALLY TOOK ME...

YOU KNOW WHAT I THOUGHT? I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE A DOCTOR AGAIN.
...
...
SECOND TIME TODAY !
AND THE WIFE COMES RUNNING IN HERE JUST CUZ THE KID'S GOT A LI'L FEVER.
A DIFFICULT CONDITION WITH AN UNCLEAR CAUSE. I THINK IT REQUIRES SURGERY.
KAWASAKI DISEASE? WHAT'S THAT ?
LISTEN TO ME, YOU LOUT.
HE MIGHT HAVE KAWASAKI DISEASE !

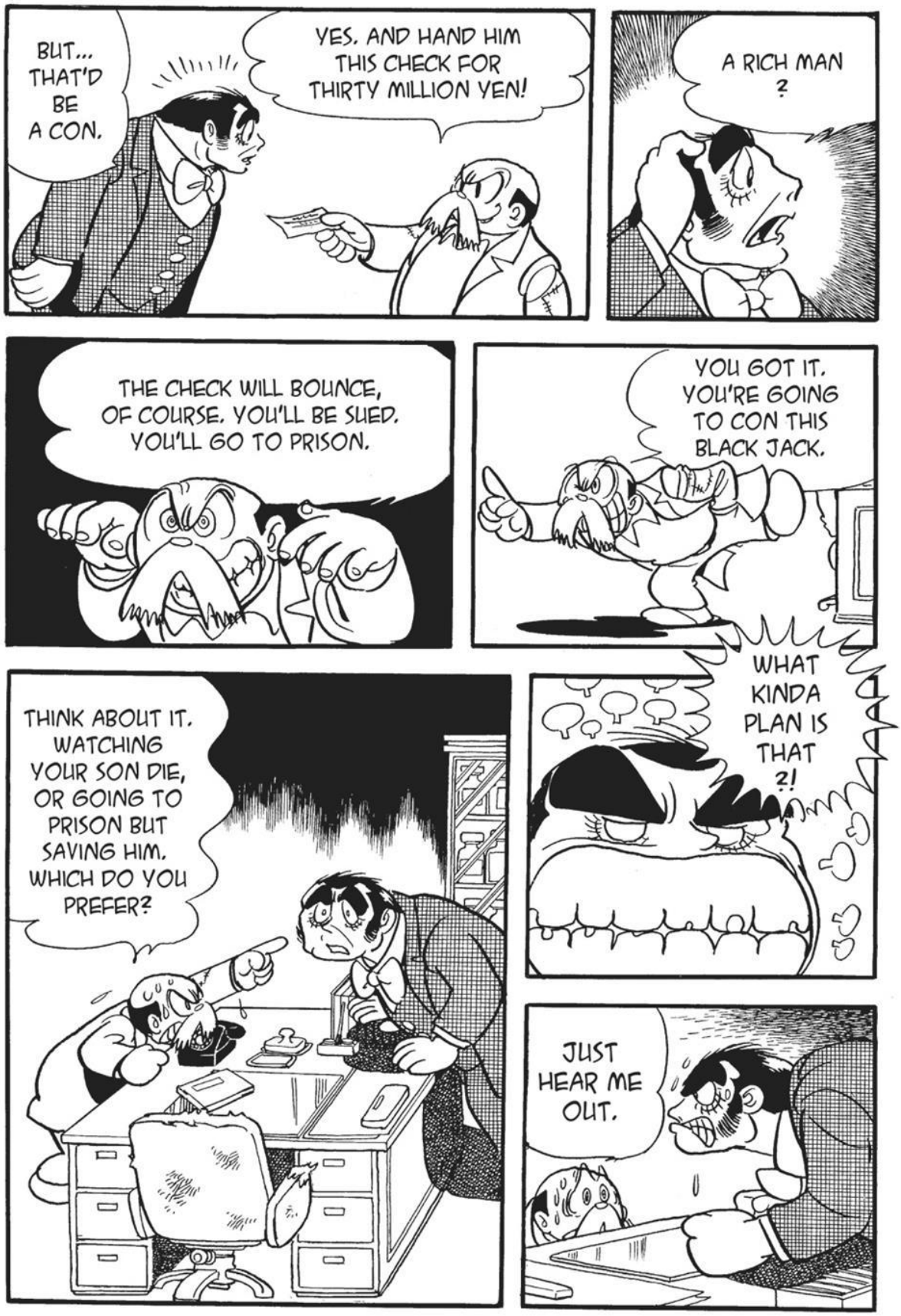


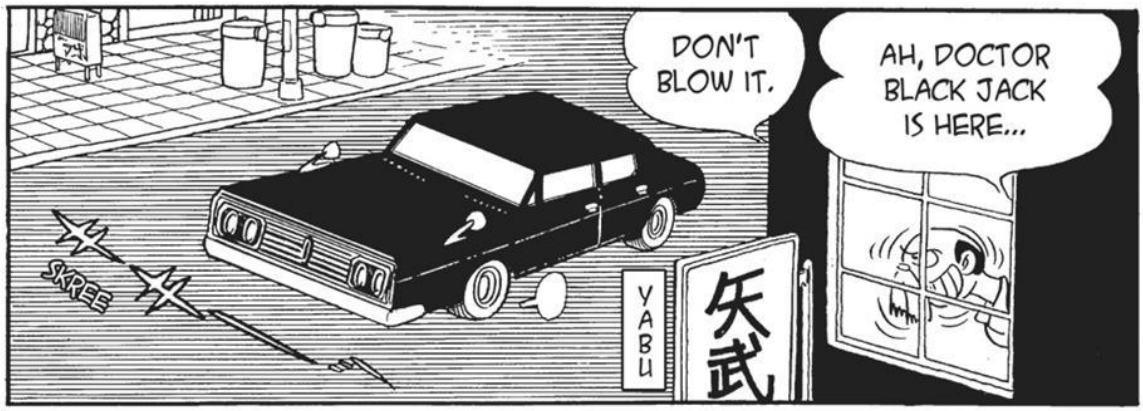


NOTE: THE NAME "YABUI" ECHOES "YABUISHA," OR *QUACK*.

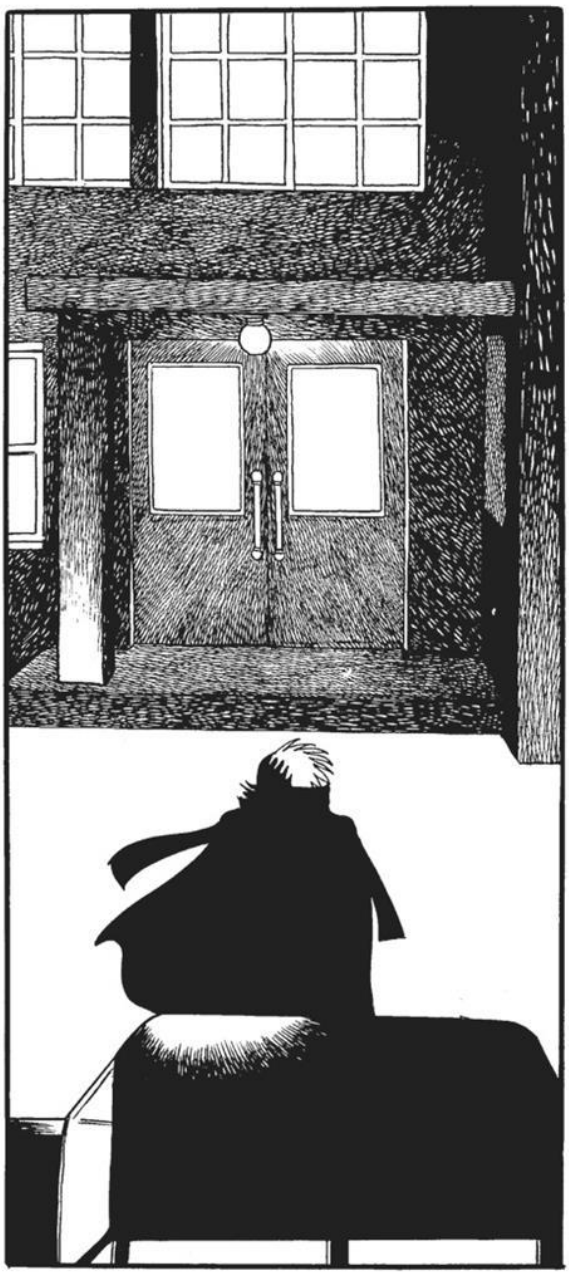
I'D DO IT FOR THIRTY MILLION UP FRONT.
SOUNDS LIKE A CORONARY ARTERY TRANSPLANT'S IN ORDER.
THE PATIENT'S FAMILY SAYS THEY'LL PAY.
THIRTY MILLION YEN ?!
YES, A CHECK FOR THIRTY MILLION YEN. THANK YOU. SEE YOU SOON.
ARE YA KIDDIN' ME ?!
HAVE YA GOT A SCREW LOOSE ?
YOU COULD SAY THAT. A DOCTOR-ON-DOCTOR SWINDLE!
MASTER SURGEON ON THE WAY.
KCHAK ガチャ

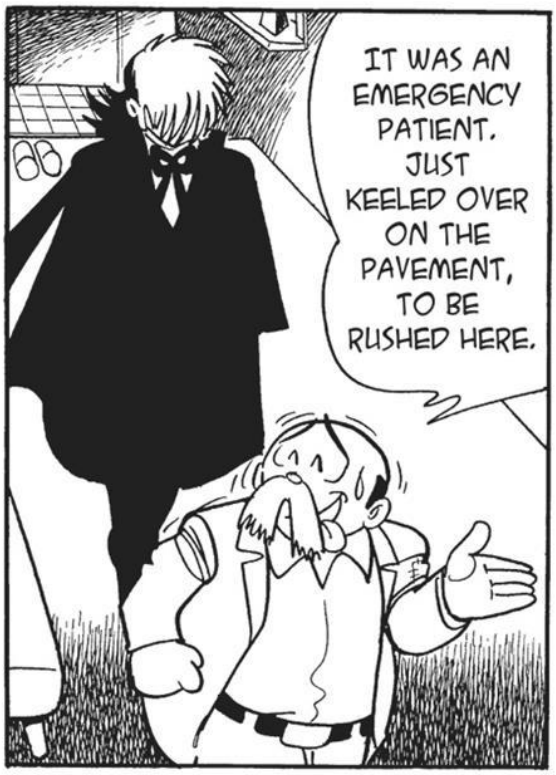
HERE'S A CHECKBOOK.
YOU.
WHO'S GONNA PAY THE MONEY ?
SIGN? WHAT ARE YA TALKIN' ABOUT ?
A CHECK FOR 30 MILLION! I NEED YOU TO SIGN.
AH, GOOD. QUITE DIGNIFIED.
MIGHT WANNA SHAVE TOO.
STAND TALL AND PROUD LIKE YOU'RE A RICH MAN.
I'LL LEND YOU SOME CLOTHES.
CHANGE INTO THESE.

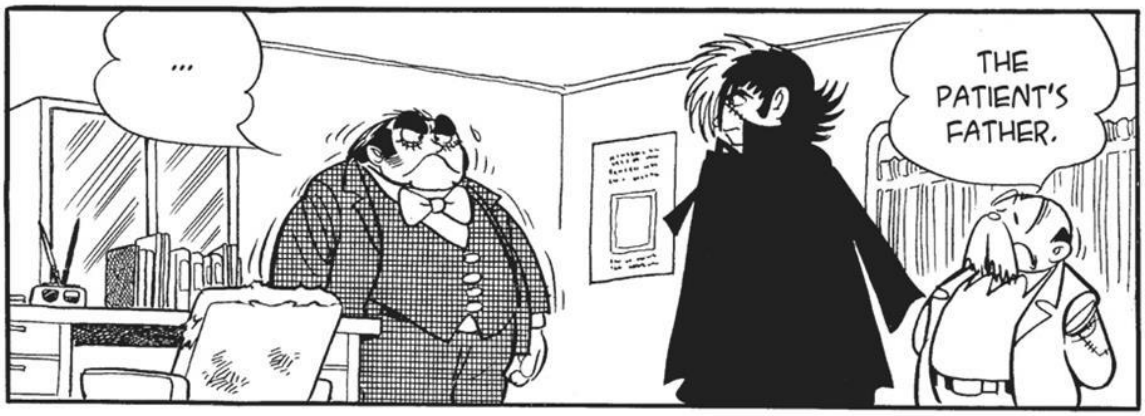

BUT... THAT'D BE A CON.
YES. AND HAND HIM THIS CHECK FOR THIRTY MILLION YEN!
A RICH MAN ?
THE CHECK WILL BOUNCE, OF COURSE. YOU'LL BE SUED. YOU'LL GO TO PRISON.
YOU GOT IT. YOU'RE GOING TO CON THIS BLACK JACK.
WHAT KINDA PLAN IS THAT ?!
THINK ABOUT IT. WATCHING YOUR SON DIE, OR GOING TO PRISON BUT SAVING HIM. WHICH DO YOU PREFER?
JUST HEAR ME OUT.

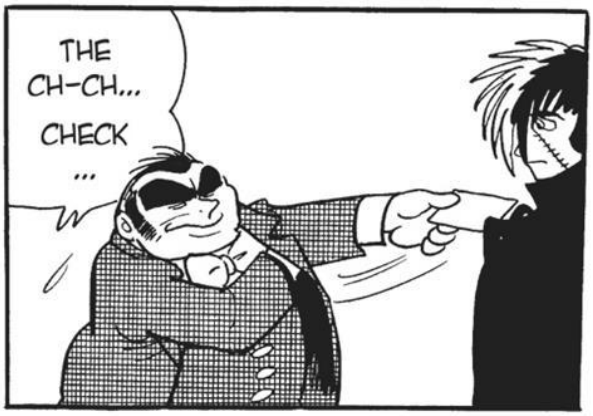

DON'T BLOW IT.
AH, DOCTOR BLACK JACK IS HERE...
SKREE
YABU
矢武

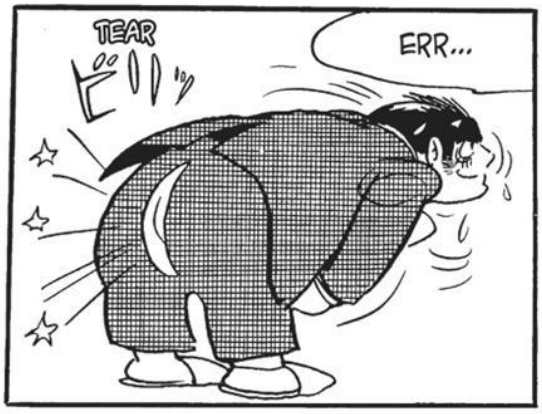
I'M DOCTOR YABUI. THANKS FOR COMING.

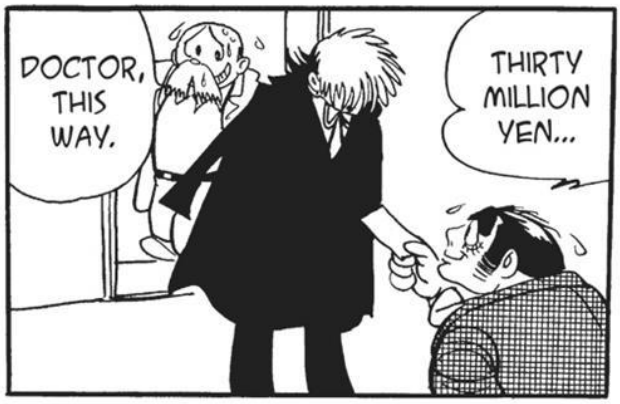



IT WAS AN EMERGENCY PATIENT. JUST KEELED OVER ON THE PAVEMENT, TO BE RUSHED HERE.


...
THE PATIENT'S FATHER.


THE CH-CH... CHECK ...


TEAR
ビリッ
ERR...


DOCTOR, THIS WAY.
THIRTY MILLION YEN...

IDIOT! THAT'S MY PAWN SLIP.

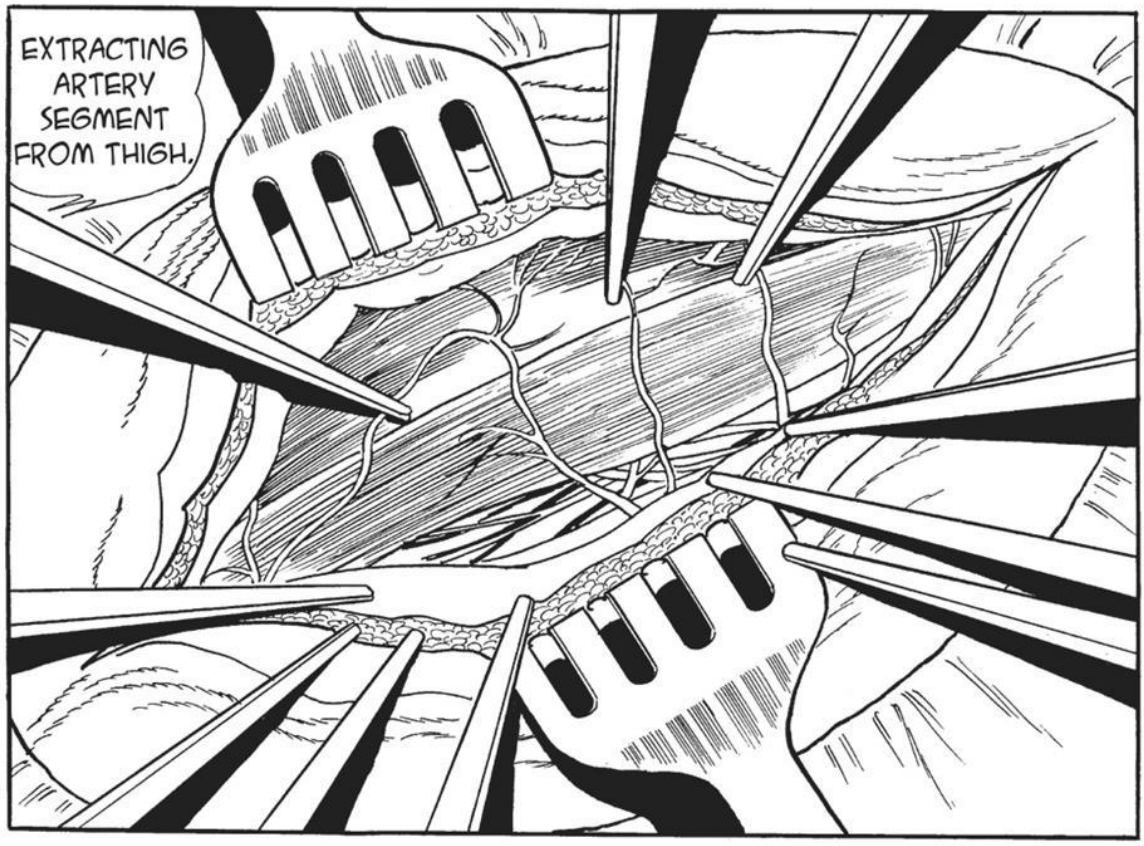
IT WAS UNTREATABLE TILL RECENTLY, EVEN BY SURGERY.
HE SUFFERED FOUR DAYS OF DIARRHEA AND HIGH FEVER AND RECOVERED AT ONE POINT.
KAWASAKI DISEASE, DIDN'T YOU SAY?
M-ME? I... I...
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT. EVER PERFORMED HEART SURGERY?
NO.
PUT HIM UNDER.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I'VE NEVER ...
WATCH THE ECG.
DARLING ...

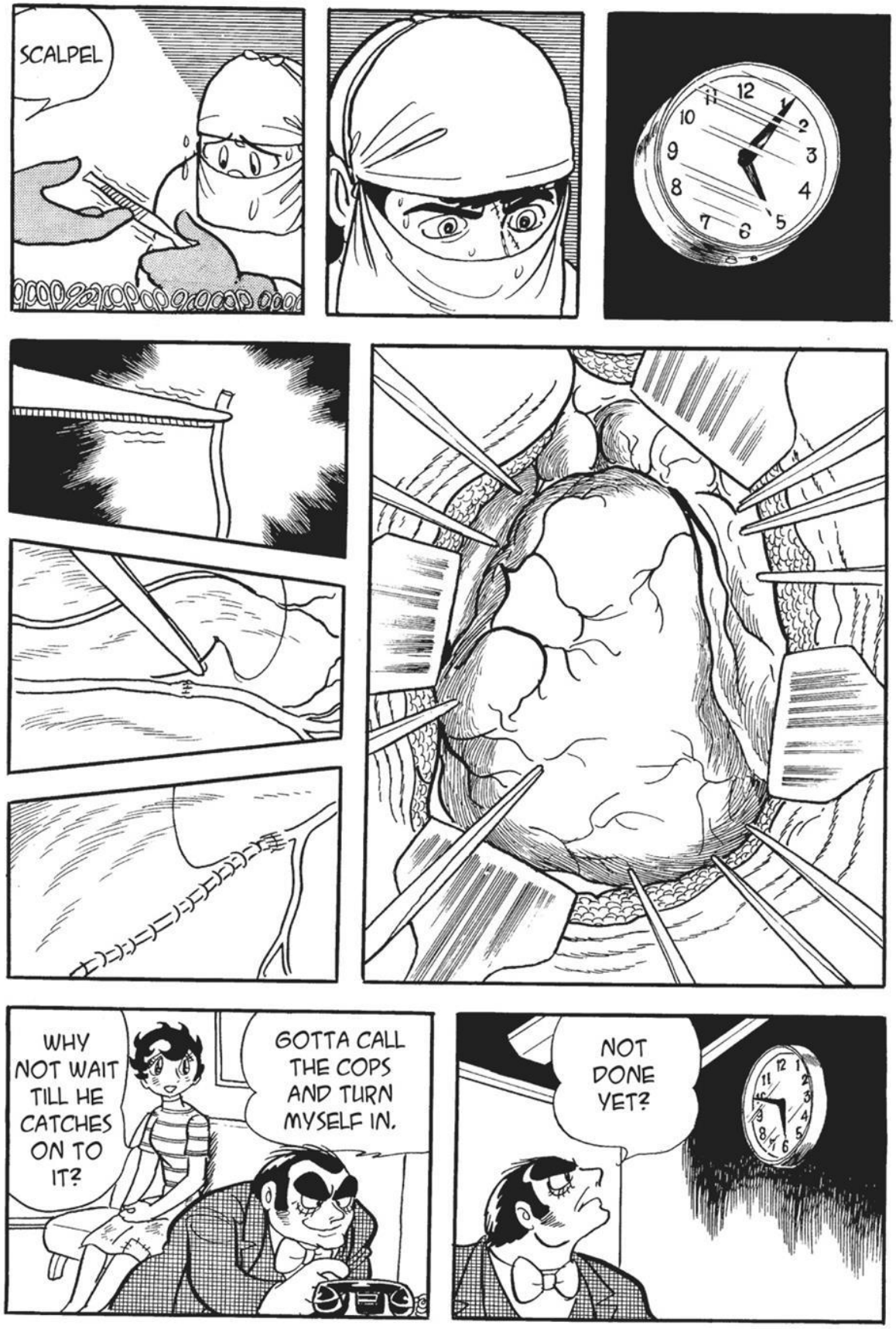
I'VE BEEN IN FIGHTS. AND OH, I'VE GAMBLED.

I S'POSE YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON ...
WHEN IT'S OVER... WHEN TSUTOMU IS CURED...

YOU MEAN CAESAR ...
TO QUOTE RAZOR, "THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST ..."

I CAN SEE THE PAPERS. "30 MILLION YEN CON" ...
BUT A CON? HEHEH, MA FIRST TIME, I SWEAR.


EXTRACTING ARTERY SEGMENT FROM THIGH.


SCALPEL
WHY NOT WAIT TILL HE CATCHES ON TO IT?
GOTTA CALL THE COPS AND TURN MYSELF IN.
NOT DONE YET?

YO, COPPER. THERE'S BEEN A CON. YEAH, A CON.
WHAT'S THE RUSH? YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON ANYWAY.
NO NEED TA LEAVE TILL TOMORROW WHAT I CAN DO TODAY.
A CHECK FOR THIRTY MILLION WITH NUTHIN' IN THE BANK. YEAH, COME ARREST THE PERP.
HUH? WHO'S THE PERP? THAT'D BE ME! I'M THE PERP.
YUP, FOR THIRTY MILLION YEN.
...OFF TA JAIL FOR ME.
YEAH, YABUI CLINIC. I'LL BE HERE! DON'T MAKE ME WAIT!

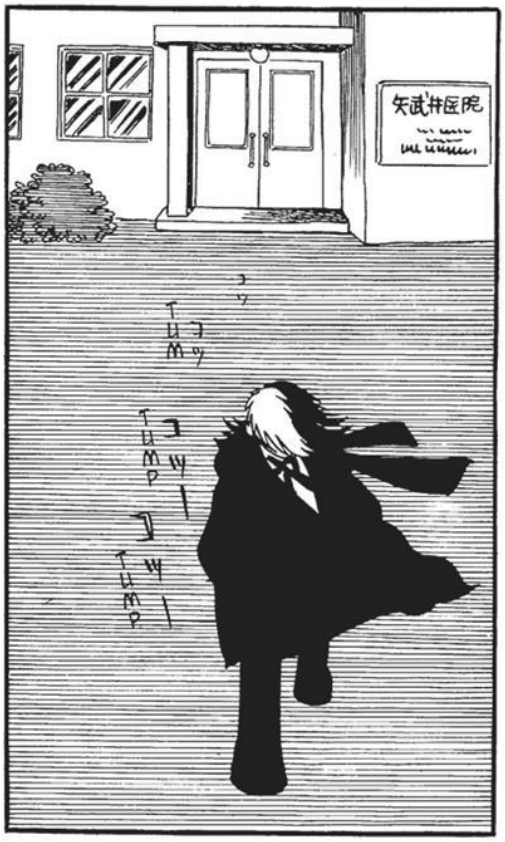
YES, WITH TWO MONTHS OF REST.
HE'LL GET BETTER? REALLY?
IS THAT TRUE ?!
YOUR SON WILL BE FINE.
MMMOO
MMMOO
SOB ウッ
SOB ウッ
THEY'RE HERE... TIME TO GO.
HEY, DO I SEE A PATROL CAR?
WOEEEE
WOEEEE

GOTTA GO OUT THE BACK ...
NO, THEY'RE AFTER ME. I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE.

WHY'D THEY NAB YOU? THEY'RE HERE FOR ME.
SHOOT, THEY'VE COME TO ARREST ME.

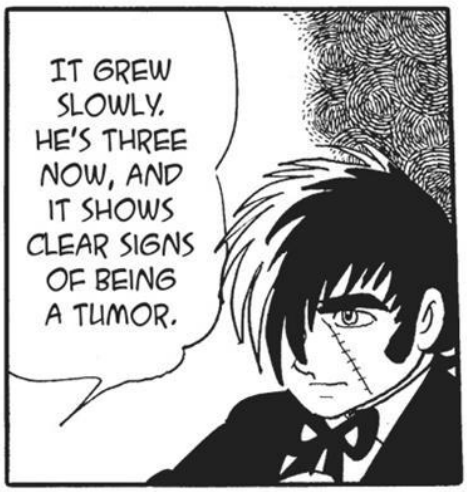
I'M LEAVING THE REST TO YOU.

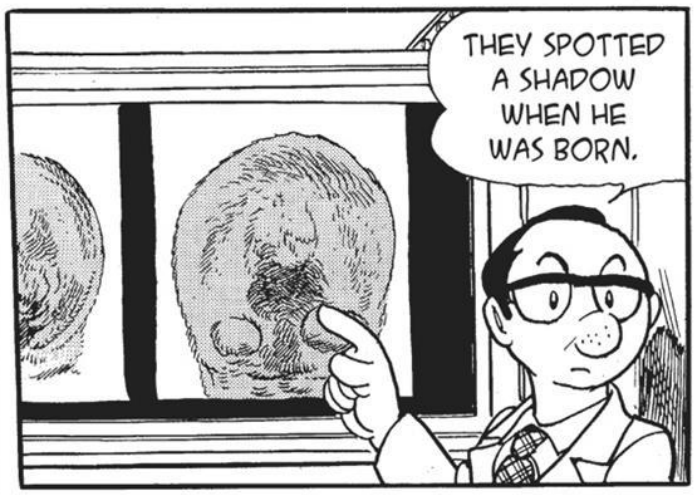
HERE'S YOUR CHECK.


矢武井医院
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

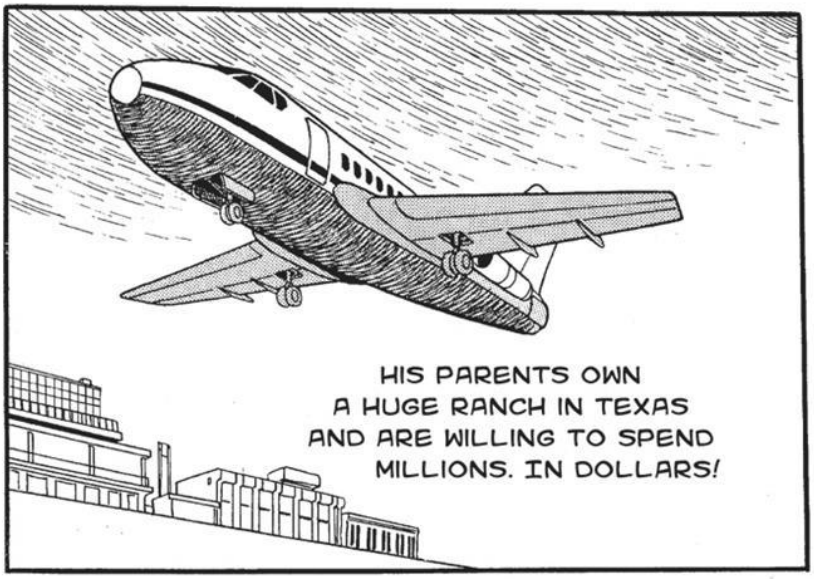
WHAT?! ARE YOU SURE?
I DID PERFORM SURGERY ...
WE RECEIVED A TIP ABOUT A CASE OF FRAUD.

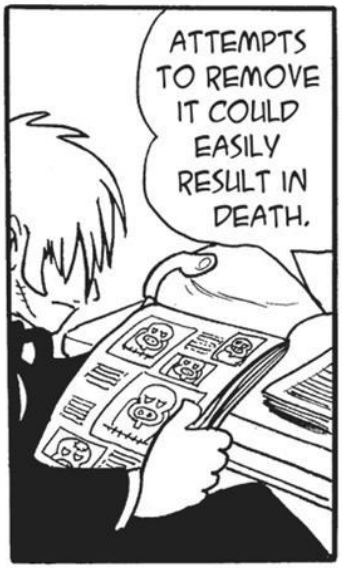
BRACHYDACTYLY

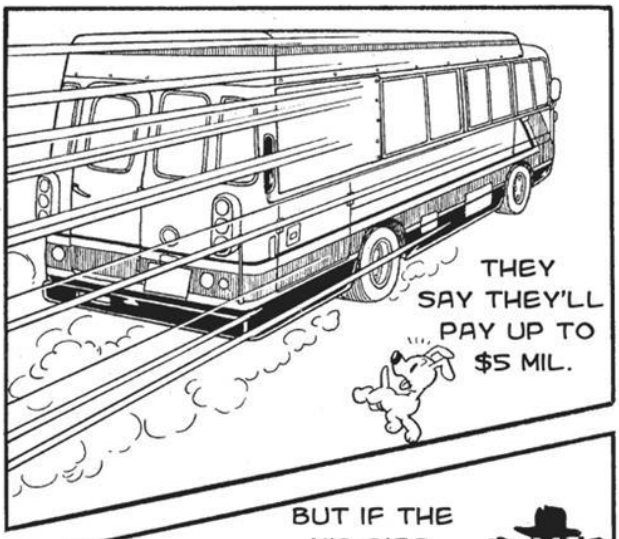

IT GREW SLOWLY. HE'S THREE NOW, AND IT SHOWS CLEAR SIGNS OF BEING A TUMOR.

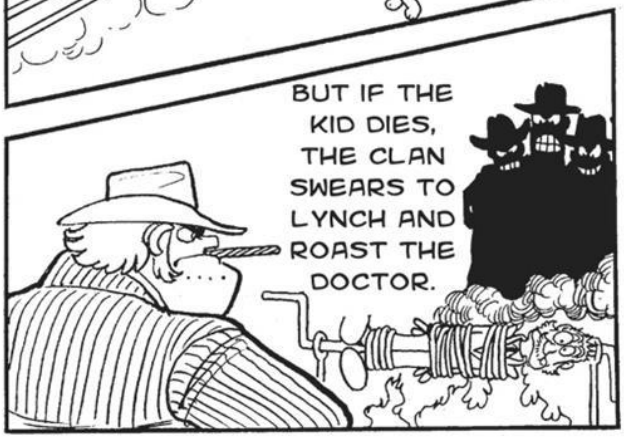

THEY SPOTTED A SHADOW WHEN HE WAS BORN.

WORLD-RENOWNED SURGEONS HAVE TRIED TO REMOVE THE TUMOR, WITHOUT SUCCESS.
IT'S ADHERED TO THE BRAIN TISSUE, YOU SEE ...


HIS PARENTS OWN A HUGE RANCH IN TEXAS AND ARE WILLING TO SPEND MILLIONS. IN DOLLARS!


ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE IT COULD EASILY RESULT IN DEATH.


THEY SAY THEY'LL PAY UP TO $5 MIL.


BUT IF THE KID DIES, THE CLAN SWEARS TO LYNCH AND ROAST THE DOCTOR.

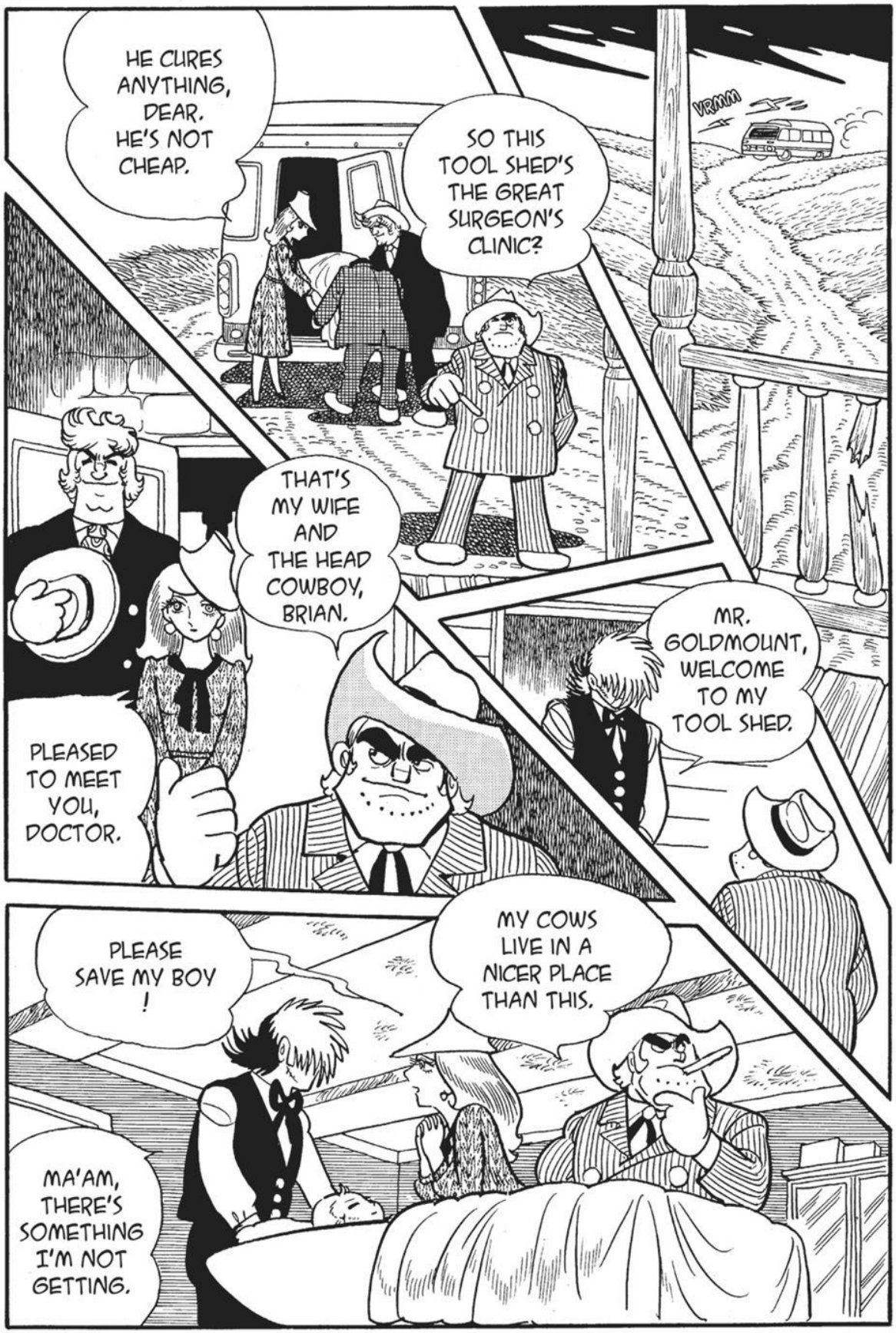
TO THE SOUTH POLE IF NEED BE.
WHEN THERE IS HOPE, THEY TAKE THEIR JET

HMM, A GAMBLE ?
IT'S A GAMBLE. IF YOU SUCCEED, GREAT, BUT IF THE KID DIES...
WHAT DO YOU SAY ?
GOLDMOUNT— THE RANCHER— CALLED ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

MAY I? I NEED TO TALK TO HIM.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN PROFESSOR KSTIANSEN OF DENMARK, THE WORLD'S BEST NEUROSURGEON, THREW HIS HANDS UP.

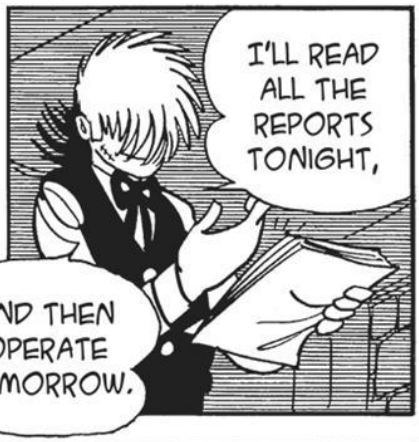
PROFESSOR, IT'S ME, BLACK JACK.
LONG TIME NO HEAR.
PROFESSOR, I HEARD THAT YOU OPERATED ON MR. GOLDMOUNT'S SON'S BRAIN TUMOR.
AH, MY UNLICENSED MIRACLE-WORKER.
THEY WANT YOU NOW? DON'T DO IT.
BUT WHY ?
IT'S NOT TREATABLE. IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE.
YOU SEE, THEY WANT ME TO GIVE IT A TRY ...
WHY DID YOU ABORT SURGERY ?
THAT'S WHAT I CAN'T SAY. BELIEVE ME, YOU SHOULD TURN DOWN THIS ONE.
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE TUMOR ?
I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY... ANYWAY, AVOID THIS PATIENT.
NO, I'M TAKING IT.
WANNA TURN THEM DOWN ?
HE WON'T TELL ME.
WHAT'S GOING ON?


HE CURES ANYTHING, DEAR. HE'S NOT CHEAP.
SO THIS TOOL SHED'S THE GREAT SURGEON'S CLINIC?
VRAMM
THAT'S MY WIFE AND THE HEAD COWBOY, BRIAN.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR.
MR. GOLDMOUNT, WELCOME TO MY TOOL SHED.
PLEASE SAVE MY BOY !
MY COWS LIVE IN A NICER PLACE THAN THIS.
MA'AM, THERE'S SOMETHING I'M NOT GETTING.

THE LORD HIMSELF HAS GIVEN UP ON HIM!
MY POOR BABY ...

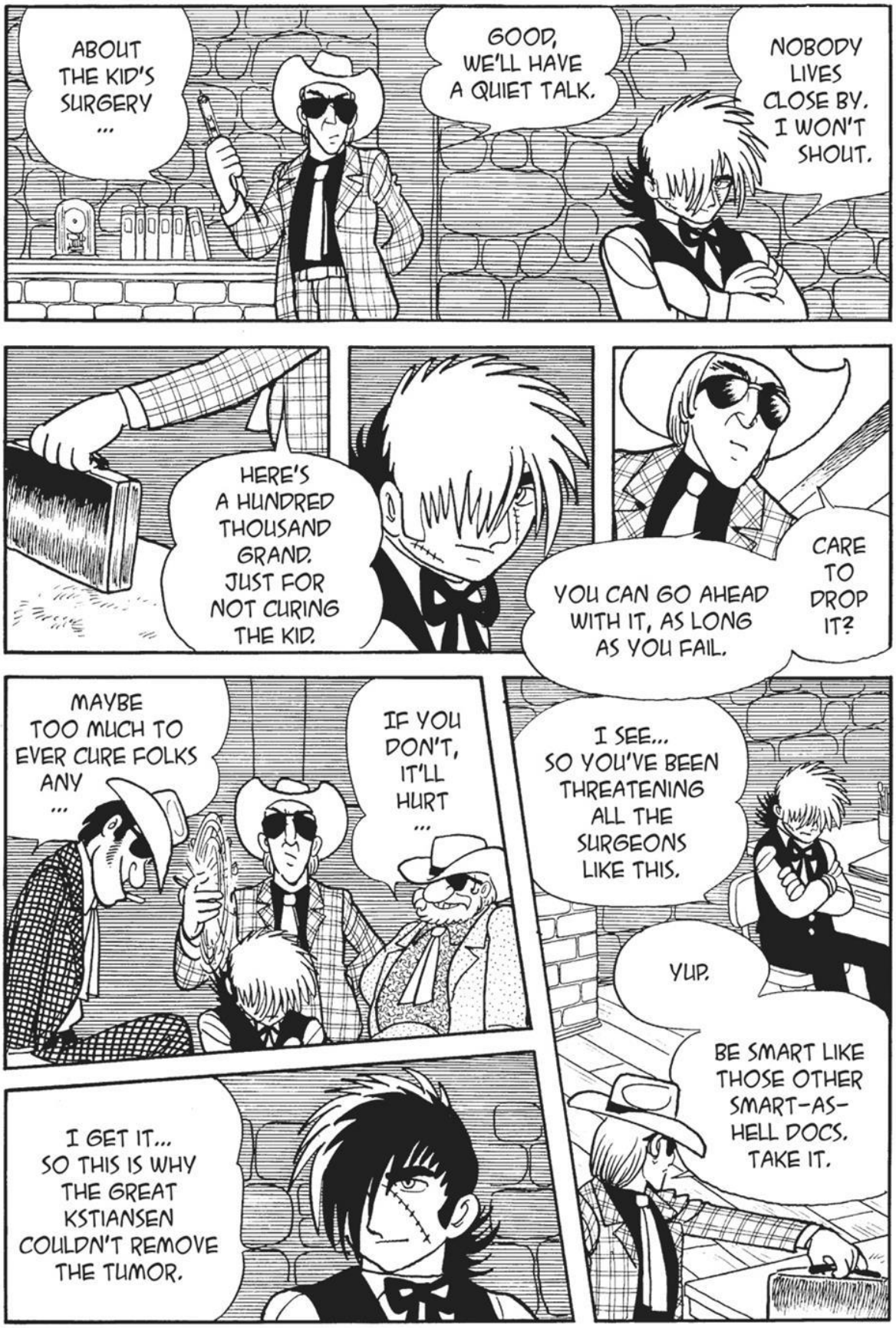
SURE, IT'S NOT AN EASY OPERATION. BUT NEITHER IS IT BEYOND THE WORLD-CLASS SURGEONS YOU WENT TO BEFORE ME.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.

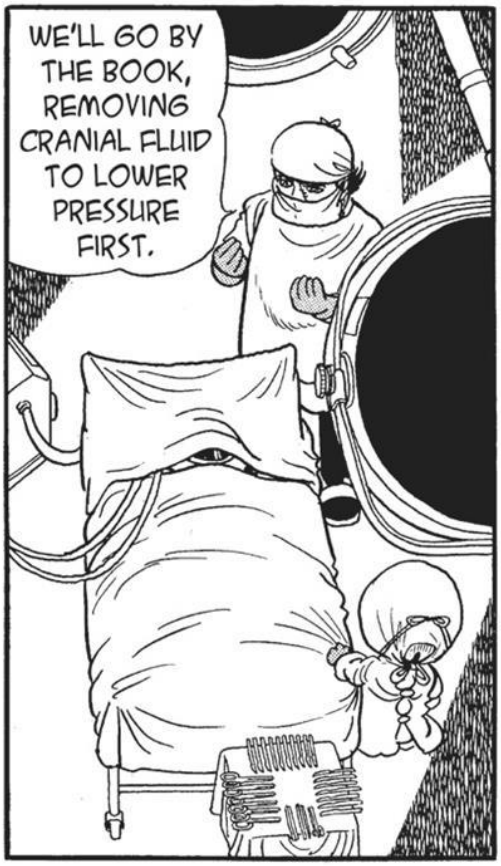

I'LL READ ALL THE REPORTS TONIGHT,
AND THEN OPERATE TOMORROW.

DON'T SHOUT, SO WE WON'T HAVE TO SHOUT AT YOU.

HMM...

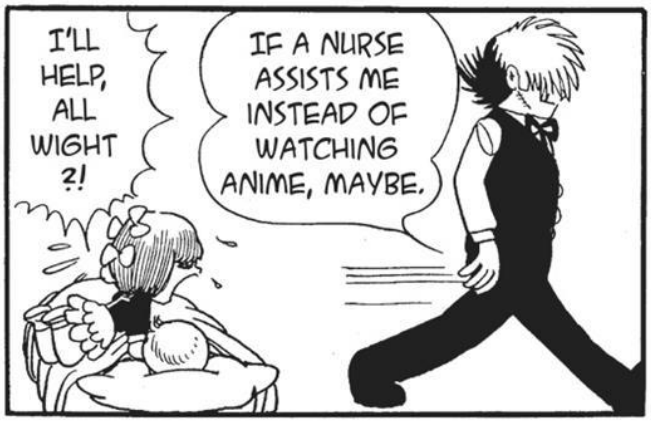

ABOUT THE KID'S SURGERY ...
GOOD, WE'LL HAVE A QUIET TALK.
NOBODY LIVES CLOSE BY. I WON'T SHOUT.
HERE'S A HUNDRED THOUSAND GRAND. JUST FOR NOT CURING THE KID.
YOU CAN GO AHEAD WITH IT, AS LONG AS YOU FAIL.
CARE TO DROP IT?
MAYBE TOO MUCH TO EVER CURE FOLKS ANY ...
IF YOU DON'T, IT'LL HURT ...
I SEE... SO YOU'VE BEEN THREATENING ALL THE SURGEONS LIKE THIS.
YUP.
BE SMART LIKE THOSE OTHER SMART-AS-HELL DOCS. TAKE IT.
I GET IT... SO THIS IS WHY THE GREAT KSTIANSEN COULDN'T REMOVE THE TUMOR.

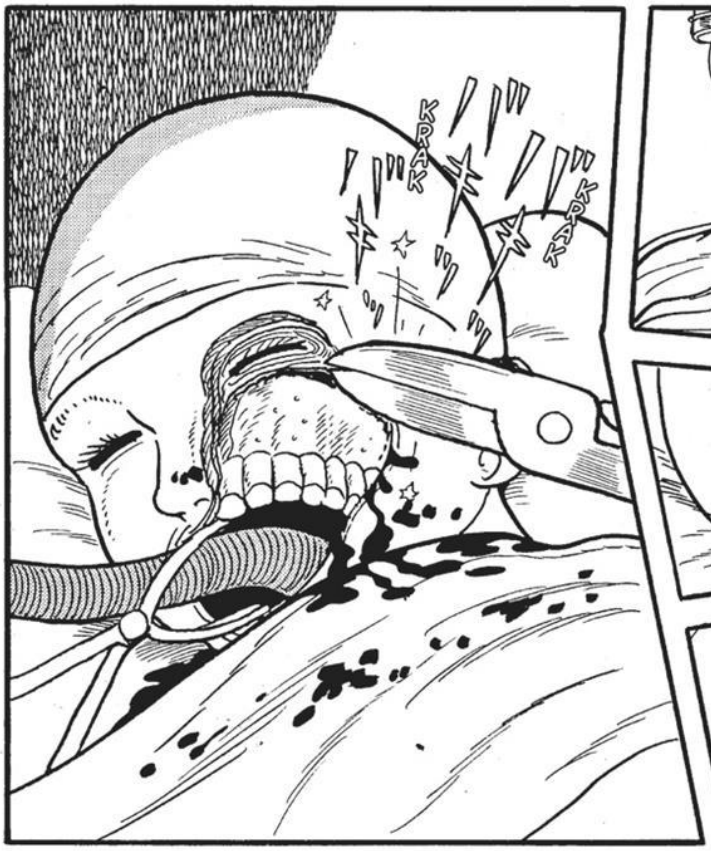
NOW JUST GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT, WILL YA? NO HARM IN TRYIN' AND FAILIN'.
IT'S NOT GONNA HURT YOUR REP, SEE? GREAT DEAL...
ARE YOU HUNGWY ?
I'M BACK !
NOT BAD, BUT MY SKILL WON'T ALLOW IT.
NOT GONNA HURT MY REP.
IT'S A KID ?
THERE ARE DOZENS OF THOSE. THIS KID HAS ONLY ONE LIFE.
SOURRRO
WE'LL BE OPERATING TOMORROW AT NINE.
HE WAS ONLY BOWN YESHTER-DAY.
POOR FING ...
YES, THAT ONE.
AT NINE?! THERE'S AN ANIME I WANNA WATCH!

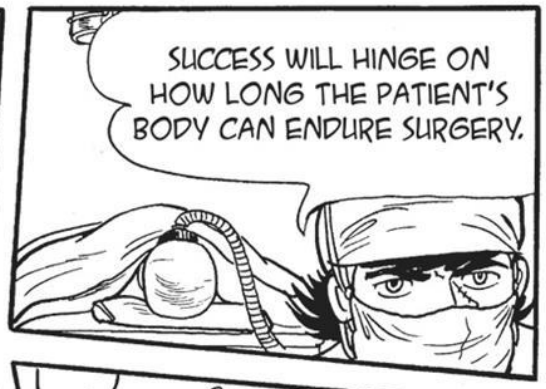

WE'LL GO BY THE BOOK, REMOVING CRANIAL FLUID TO LOWER PRESSURE FIRST.

WILL HE BE OKAY ?

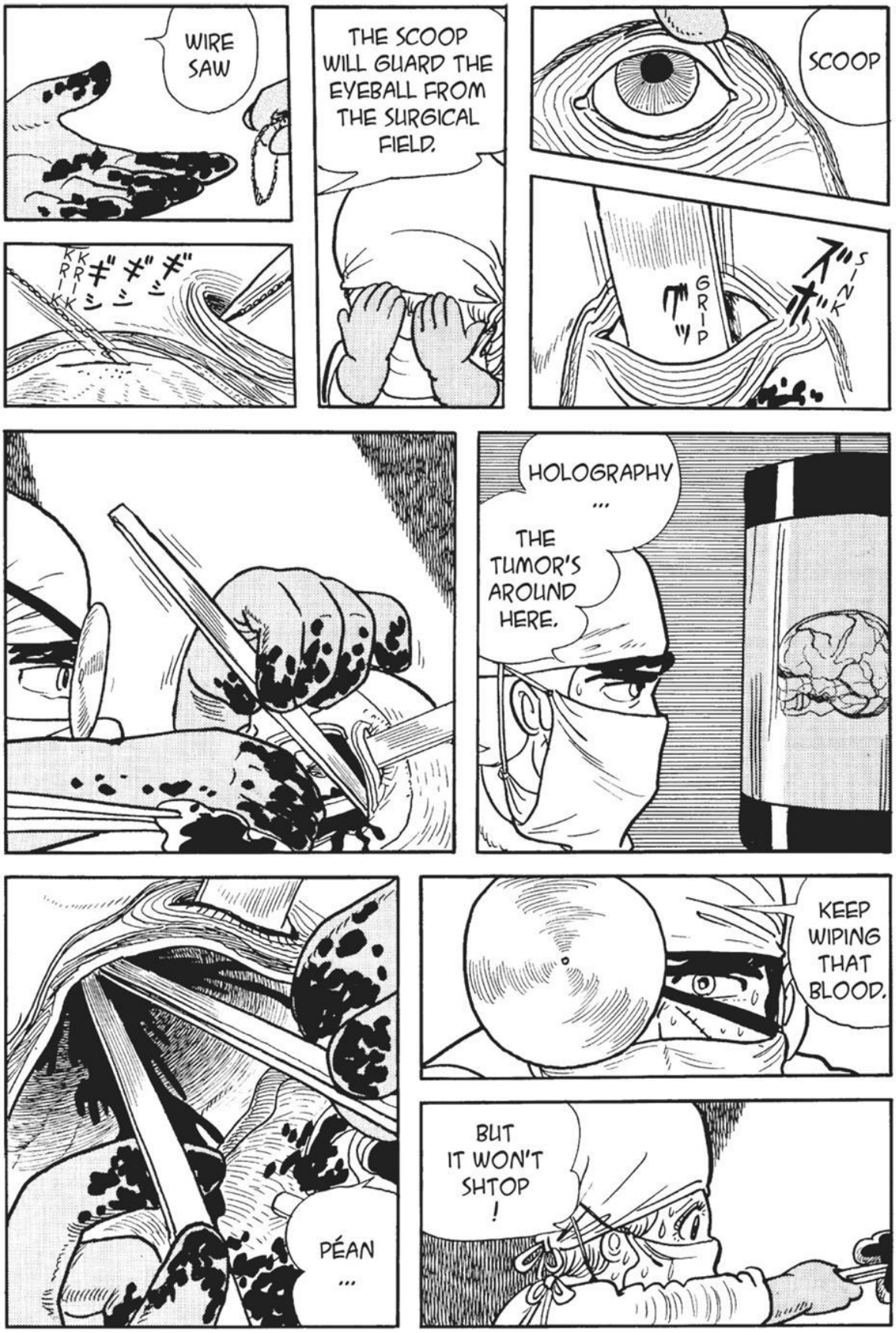
HA, IT'S FUNNY WHEN YOU SAY THAT.
PINOKO IS A GWOWN-UP!


I'LL HELP, ALL WIGHT ?!
IF A NURSE ASSISTS ME INSTEAD OF WATCHING ANIME, MAYBE.

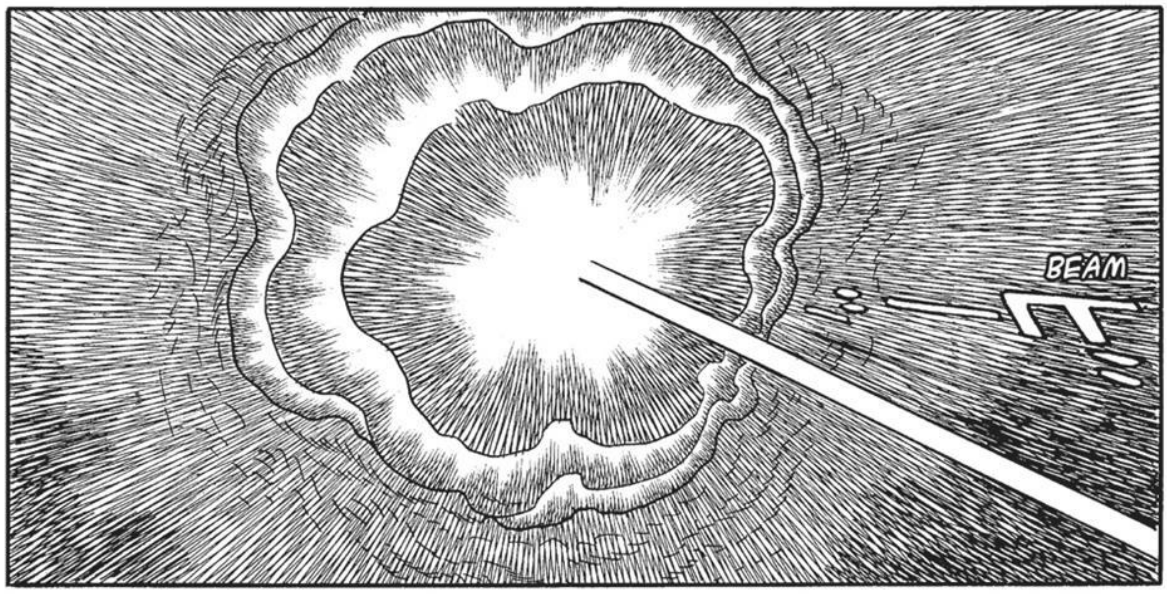

KRADDK
KRADDK


SUCCESS WILL HINGE ON HOW LONG THE PATIENT'S BODY CAN ENDURE SURGERY.

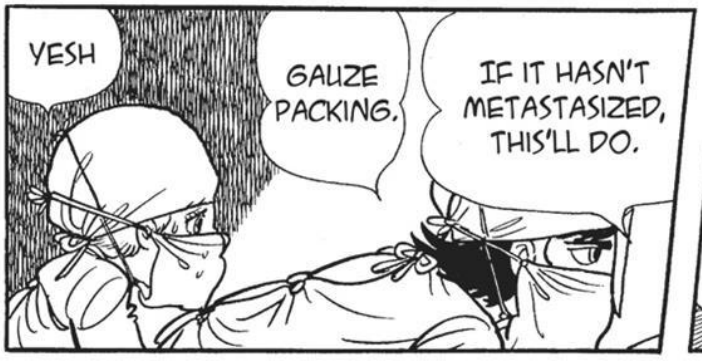
DON'T BE SCARED. OPEN YOUR EYES.

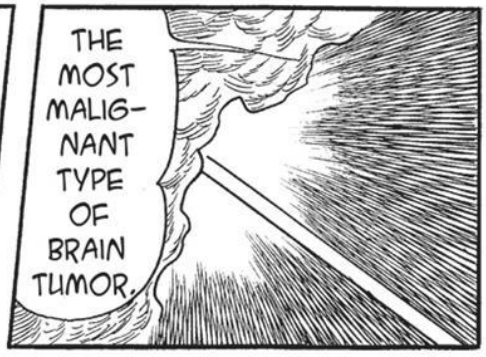

WIRE SAW
KKRRIKK ギギギシシ
THE SCOOP WILL GUARD THE EYEBALL FROM THE SURGICAL FIELD.
SCOOP
GRIP グッ
SINK ズボッ
HOLOGRAPHY ...
THE TUMOR'S AROUND HERE.
PÉAN ...
KEEP WIPING THAT BLOOD.
BUT IT WON'T SHTOP !

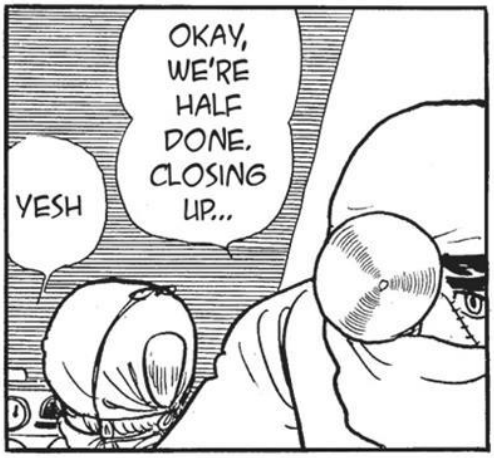
COAGU-LATOR
DRAIN
WON'T THIS BLEEDING STOP?
HEMO-STATIC PINCERS! HURRY UP!!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
PHEW !
GOOD
ギッ ギッ ギッ ギッ KRI-K KRI-K
KTUNK コタン
BONE WAX.
YESH ?
I'LL USE LASER ON IT.
WE'LL BURN IT AWAY, WHATEVER IT IS.
THERE WE GO, PINOKO. SEE IT?
A TUMOR !


BEAM

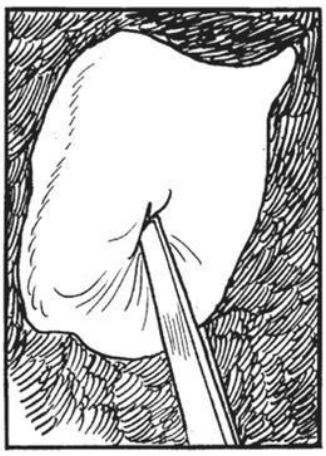
SO IT IS A GLIOMA ...


YESH
GAUZE PACKING.
IF IT HASN'T METASTASIZED, THIS'LL DO.


THE MOST MALIG-NANT TYPE OF BRAIN TUMOR.


YESH
OKAY, WE'RE HALF DONE. CLOSING UP...

SHTEADY ...
BRAIN PRESSURE ?



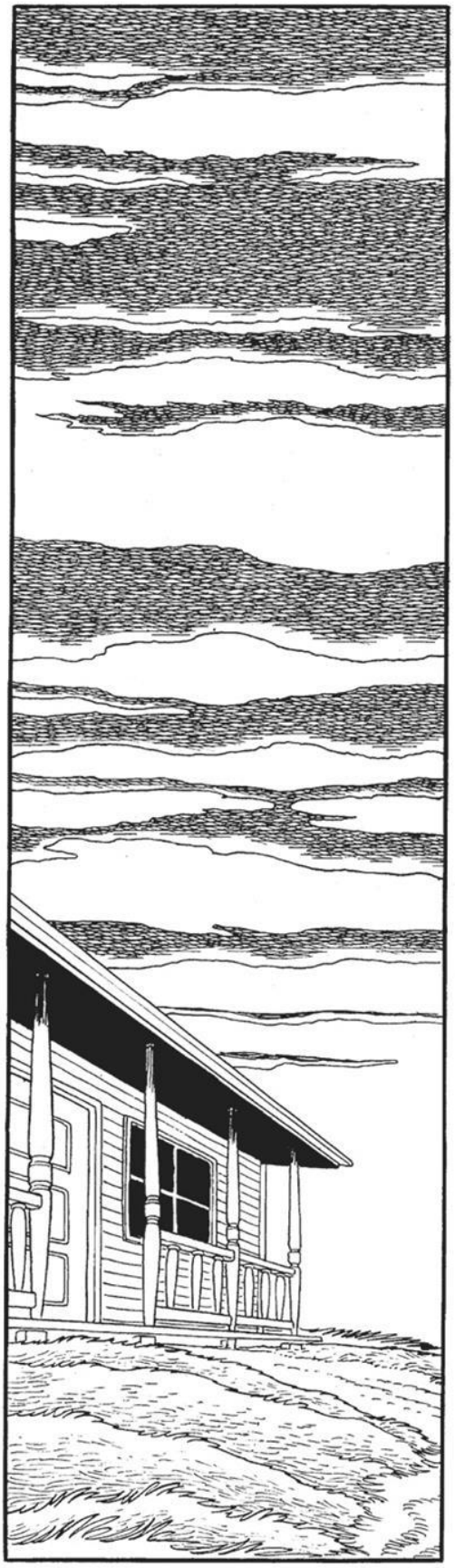
SHNOR
HE'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
NO EDEMAS YET ...

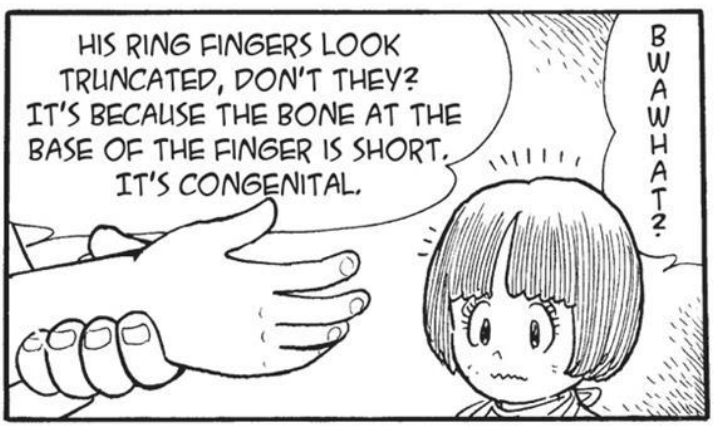
HN ?
WE'RE DONE.

HNN... WILL HE GET BETTER?
GOOD GIRL! YOU DID GREAT, PINOKO.

YAY ...
YES, IF HE HOLDS STEADY FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

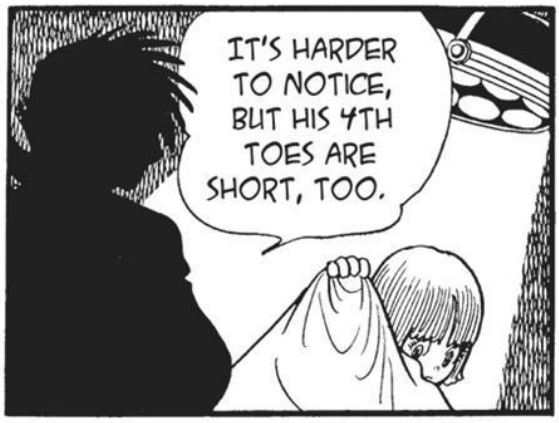
BY THE WAY, THIS BOY HAS AN INTERESTING TRAIT.
INT-WESHTING?



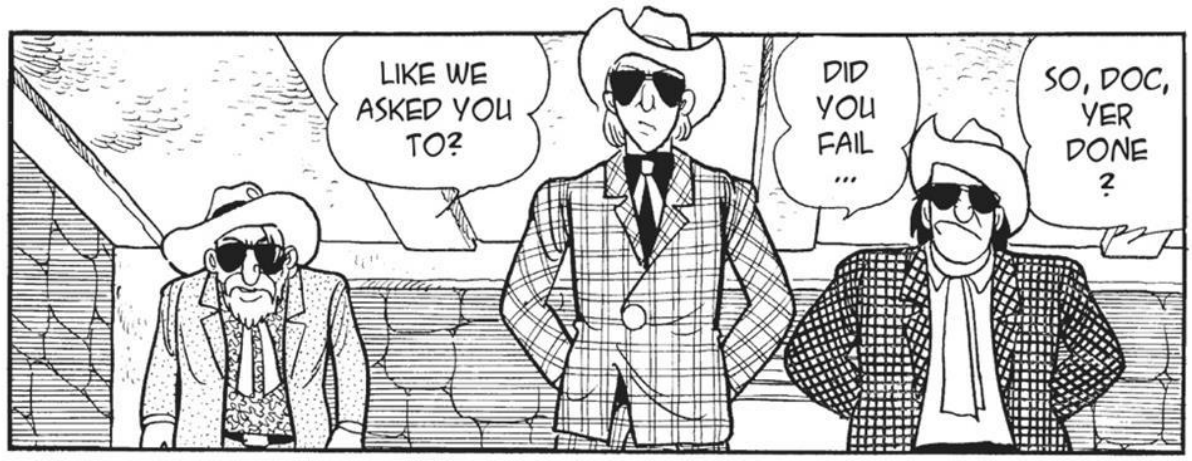

HIS RING FINGERS LOOK TRUNCATED, DON'T THEY? IT'S BECAUSE THE BONE AT THE BASE OF THE FINGER IS SHORT. IT'S CONGENITAL.
BWAWHAT?

BRACHY-DACTYLY

HAVE FUN.
GO TO YOUR BED.
I HAVE ANOTHER DAY OF WORK.


IT'S HARDER TO NOTICE, BUT HIS 4TH TOES ARE SHORT, TOO.

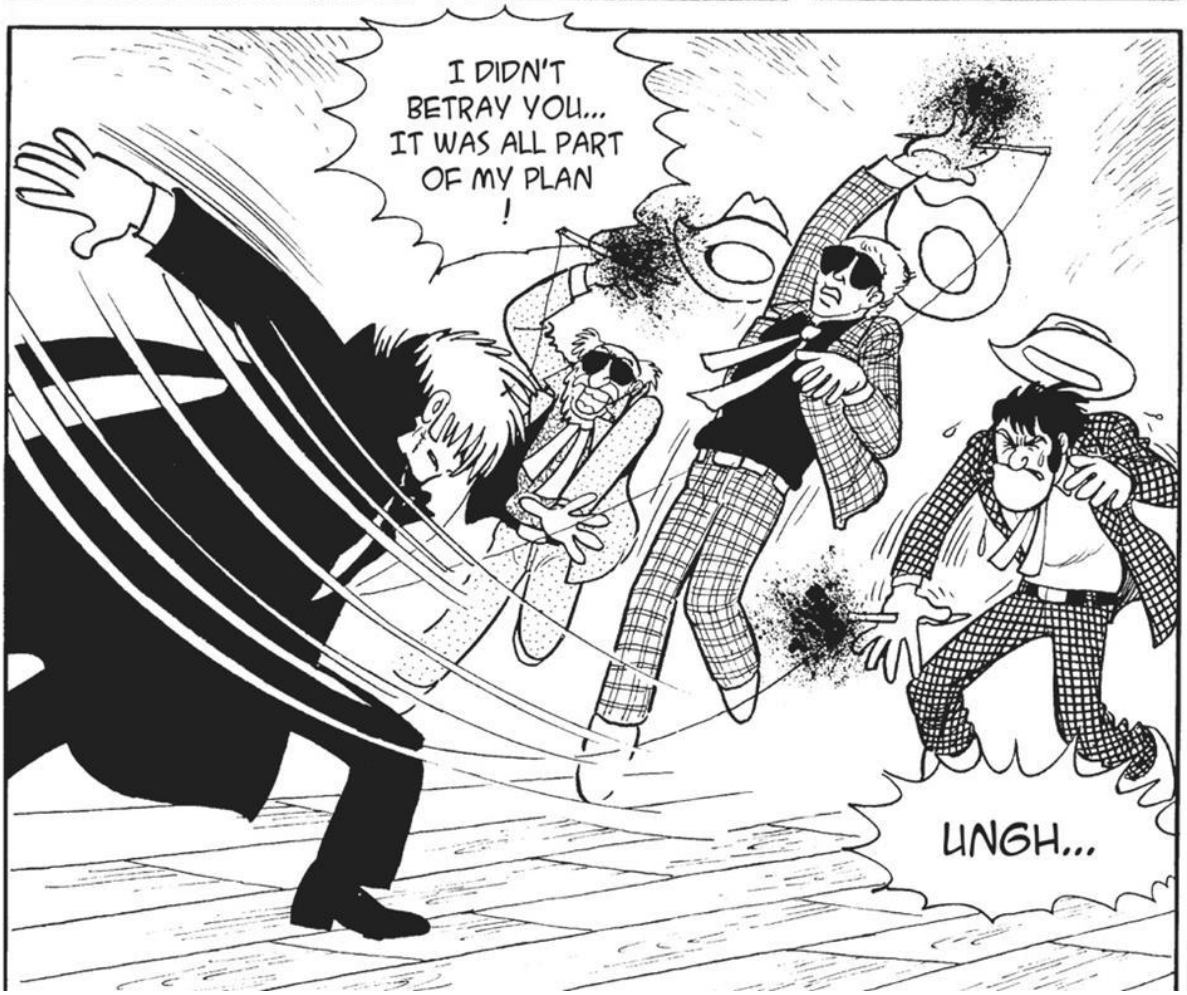
HERE YOU ARE. I'VE CHANGED CLOTHES JUST FOR YOU.

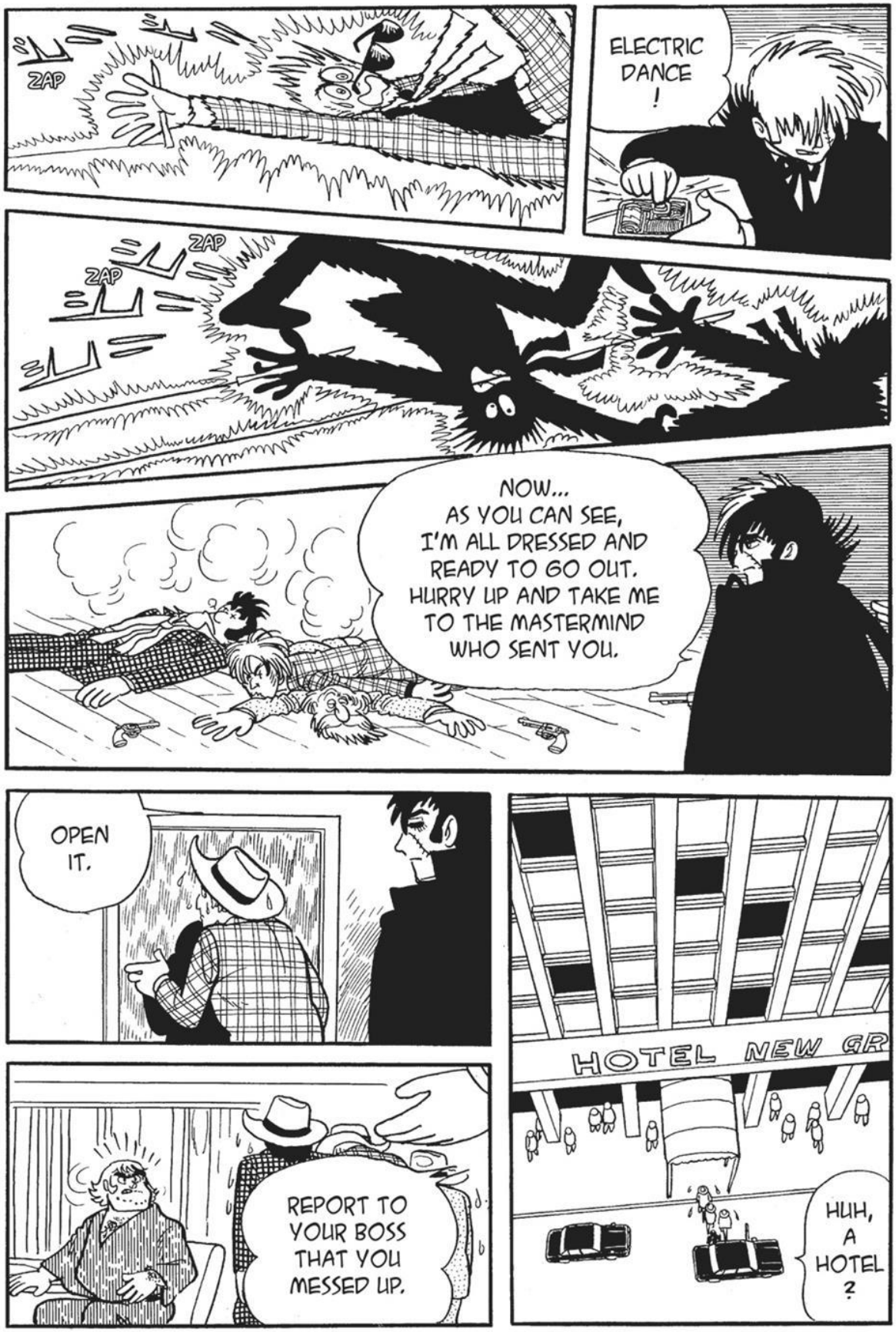

LIKE WE ASKED YOU TO?
DID YOU FAIL ...
SO, DOC, YER DONE ?

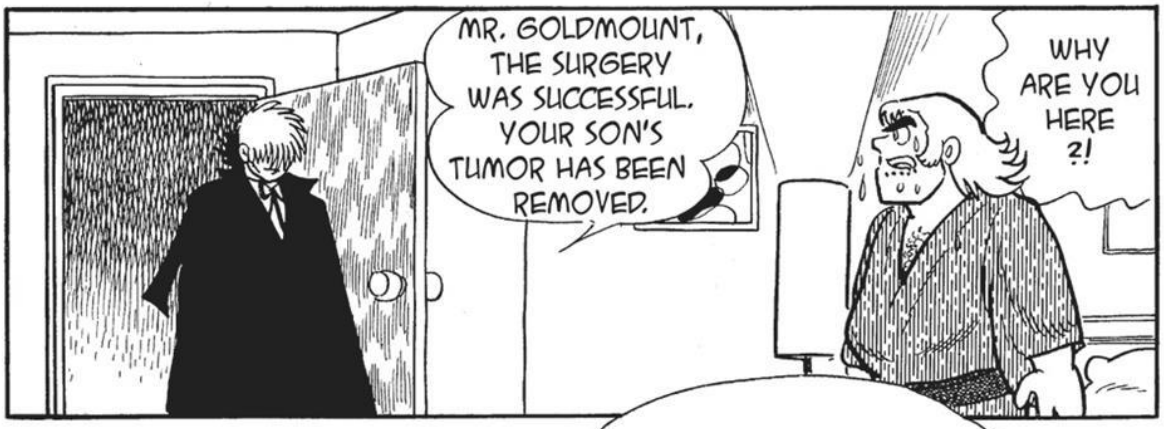
SO YOU BETRAYED US?

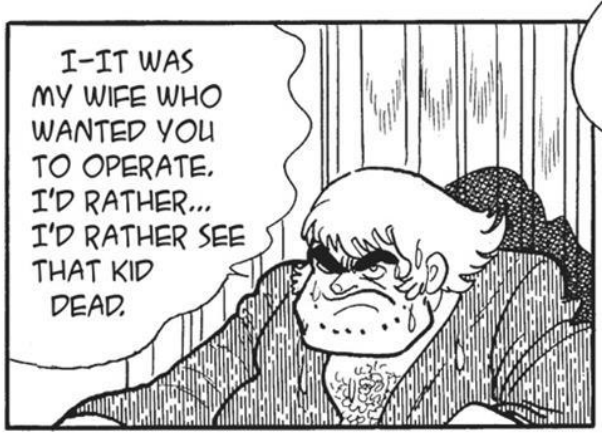
NO THANKS.
AFTER ALL, IT'S FAR LESS THAN WHAT GOLDMOUNT PROMISES TO PAY.

THUD


I DIDN'T BETRAY YOU... IT WAS ALL PART OF MY PLAN !
UNGH...


ZAP
ELECTRIC DANCE !
ZAP
ZAP
NOW... AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M ALL DRESSED AND READY TO GO OUT. HURRY UP AND TAKE ME TO THE MASTERMIND WHO SENT YOU.
OPEN IT.
REPORT TO YOUR BOSS THAT YOU MESSED UP.
HOTEL NEW GR
HUH, A HOTEL ?


MR. GOLDMOUNT, THE SURGERY WAS SUCCESSFUL. YOUR SON'S TUMOR HAS BEEN REMOVED.
WHY ARE YOU HERE ?!

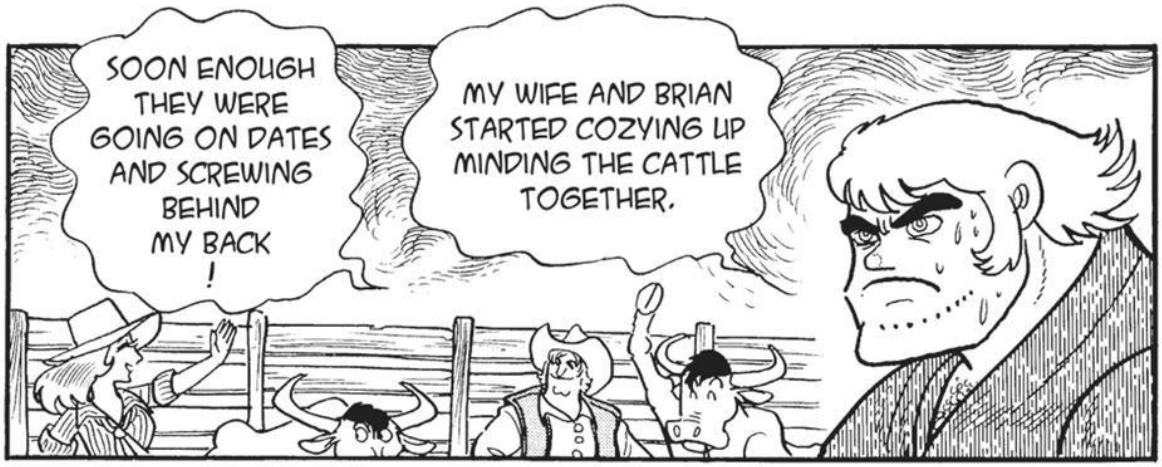

I-IT WAS MY WIFE WHO WANTED YOU TO OPERATE. I'D RATHER... I'D RATHER SEE THAT KID DEAD.

YOU'RE A STRANGE MAN. YOUR RIGHT HAND ASKS ME TO OPERATE, AND YOUR LEFT TRIES TO KEEP ME FROM DOING SO.

HIS MOTHER IS MY WIFE, BUT HIS FATHER IS THE HEAD COWBOY BRIAN!

WHY ?

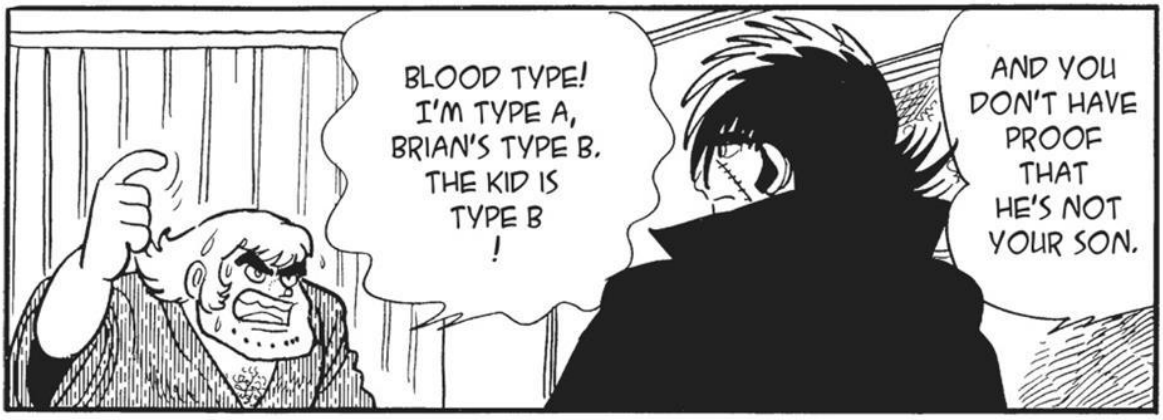
THAT KID ISN'T MINE !!


SOON ENOUGH THEY WERE GOING ON DATES AND SCREWING BEHIND MY BACK !
MY WIFE AND BRIAN STARTED COZYING UP MINDING THE CATTLE TOGETHER.

AFTER HE FELL ILL, MY WIFE SPENT LIKE MAD TO VISIT DOCTORS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THAT JUST PISSED ME OFF WORSE!

COME ON! SHE'S THAT BOY'S MOTHER.

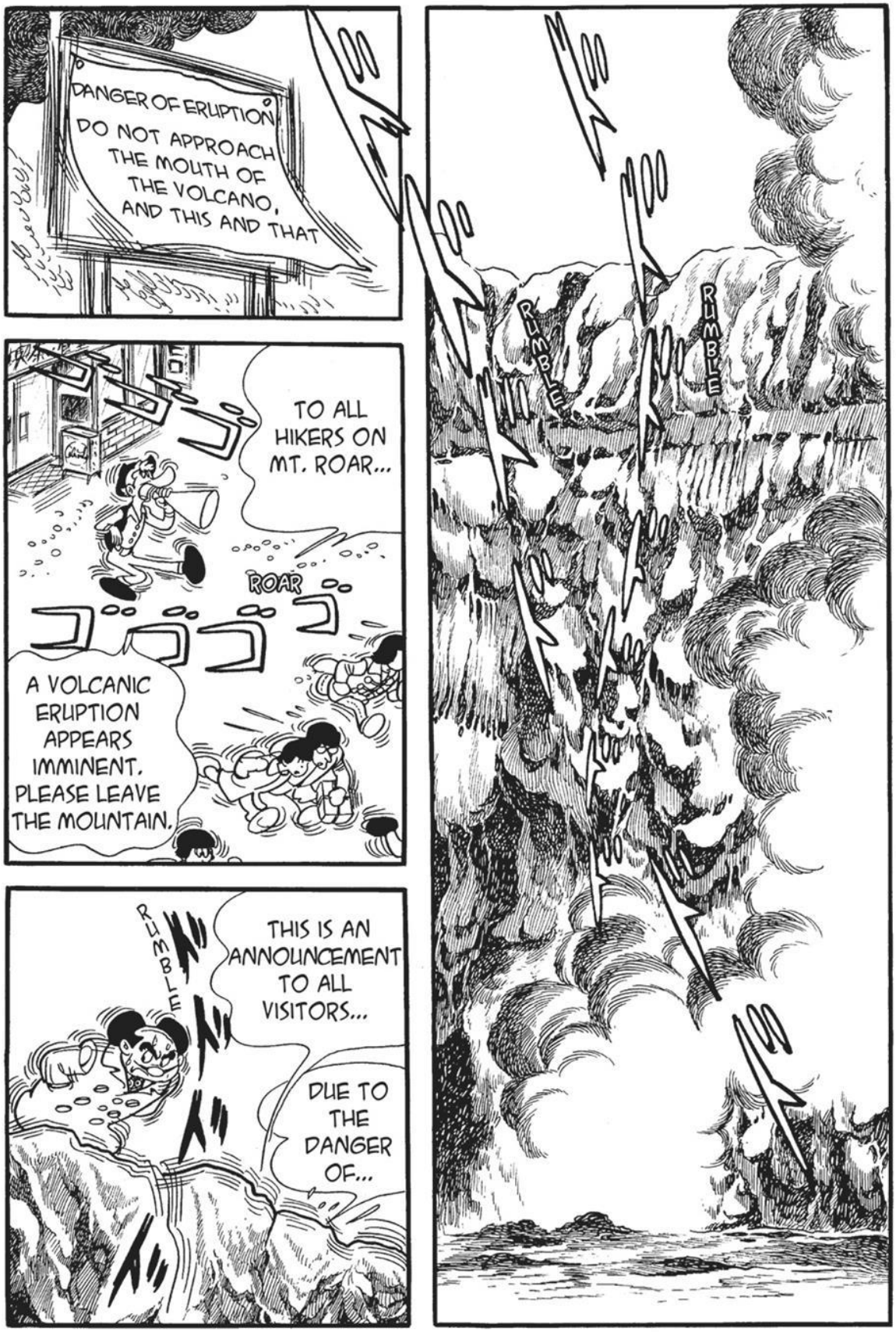
I WANTED TO KILL MY WIFE AND BRIAN TOO. BUT I HAD NO PROOF!
I'M NOT HIS FATHER. THE KID IS BRIAN'S !
THAT'S WHEN THAT KID WAS BORN !
I HATED THE KID... I WANTED THE TUMOR TO KILL HIM OFF...


BLOOD TYPE! I'M TYPE A, BRIAN'S TYPE B. THE KID IS TYPE B !
AND YOU DON'T HAVE PROOF THAT HE'S NOT YOUR SON.

JERK...
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT, YOU HICK ?!
I'LL KILL YOU! I WAS BORN THIS WAY !
YOUR RING FINGER IS SHORT!
OOPS... YOU GOT FUNNY FINGERS, MISTER GOLDMOUNT ...
THAT'S A LIE !
THAT BOY HAS THE SAME SHORT RING FINGER.
I'M SURE. IT'S CALLED BRACHYDACTYLY AND IT'S HEREDITARY.
LIES
LIES
LIES
SIR... THE BOY IS YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD.
MANIFEST IN HALF OF THE OFFSPRING.
IT'S A DOMINANT TRAIT. ALWAYS INHERITED,

I'M 100% SURE YOU WON'T FIND ANYONE WITH THE TRAIT. BRACHYDACTYLY IS THAT RARE !
GO AHEAD AND ASK THE FAMILIES OF YOUR WIFE AND YOUR COWHAND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
...
THAT BOY'S YOURS. WITHOUT A DOUBT.
.....
WHY DON'T YOU COME SEE HIM TOMORROW? BRING YOUR WIFE WITH YOU,
AND MY FEES.

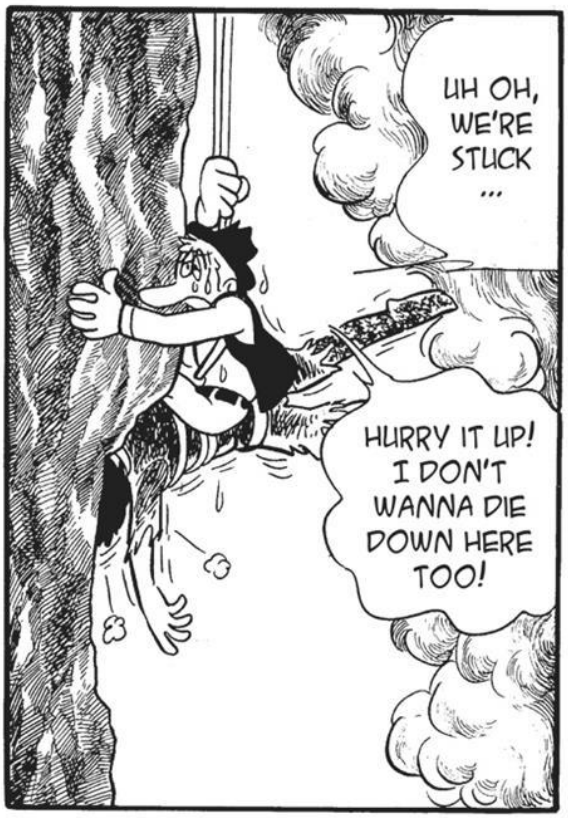
AMIDST FIRE AND ASHES

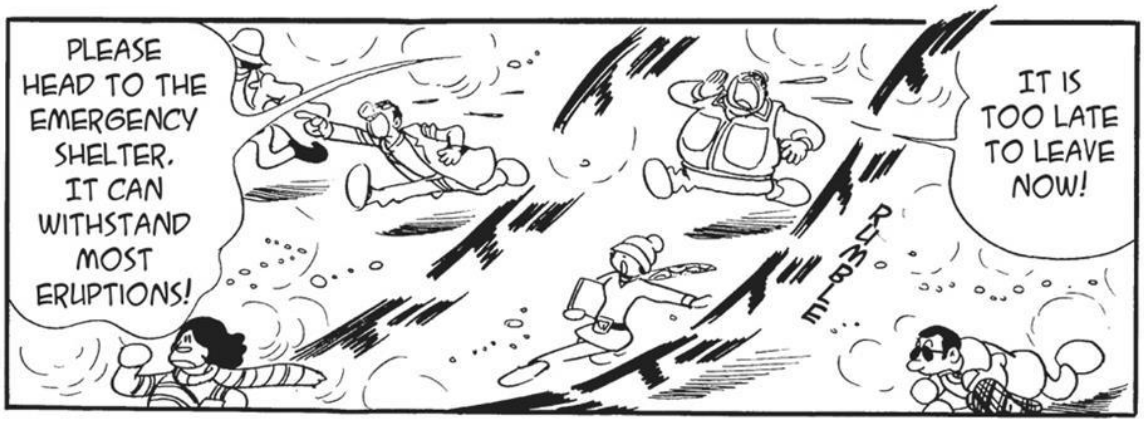

DANGER OF ERUPTION
DO NOT APPROACH THE MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO, AND THIS AND THAT
TO ALL HIKERS ON MT. ROAR...
ROAR
A VOLCANIC ERUPTION APPEARS IMMINENT. PLEASE LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN.
RUMBLE
THIS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL VISITORS...
DUE TO THE DANGER OF...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

KRRRR
VROMMM
I WANNA CRY...
DUE TO THE... HMM?!
SOME-BODY FELL IN !
S...

UGH ...

IS HE ALIVE ?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE FELL IN NOT LONG AGO. HORRIBLE BURNS BUT HARD TO SAY.
ALL RIGHT, PULL UP !


UH OH, WE'RE STUCK ...
HURRY IT UP! I DON'T WANNA DIE DOWN HERE TOO!


PLEASE HEAD TO THE EMERGENCY SHELTER. IT CAN WITHSTAND MOST ERUPTIONS!
IT IS TOO LATE TO LEAVE NOW!
RUMBLE

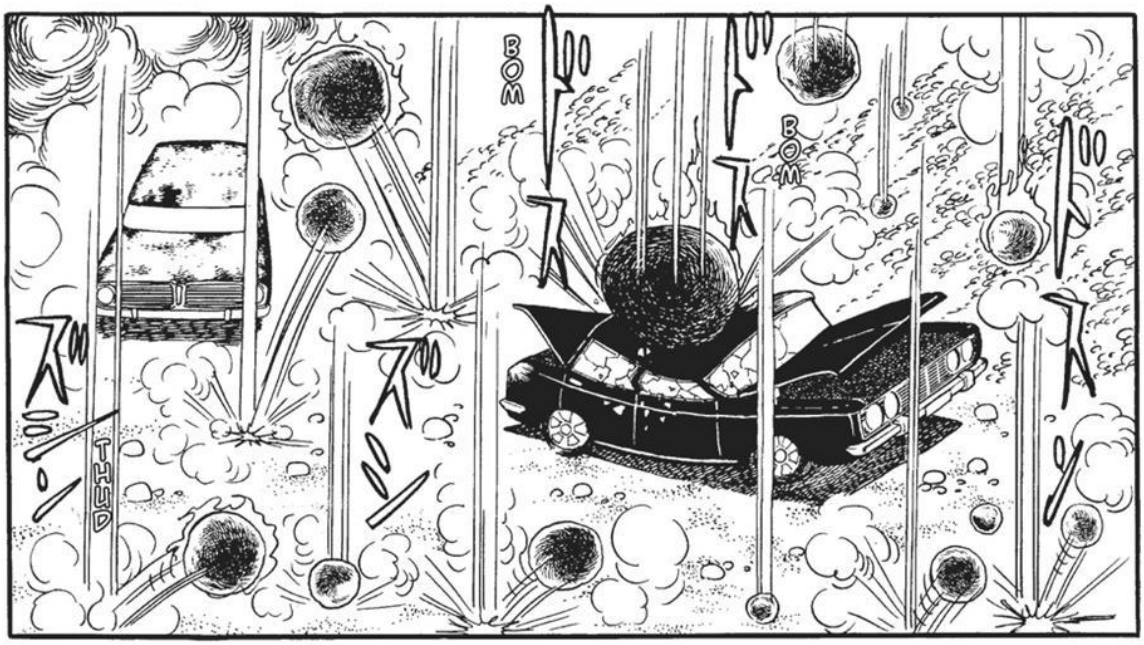
B-B-BOOM
WHOA!

DISH
THUD
THUD
PHEW, WE'RE SAVED ...
FATTY FATTY FATTY
WHAT'S WRONG ? WAS HE HIT?
HE FELL INTO THE MOUTH.
DID HE JUMP ?
DOES ANYONE KNOW THIS YOUNG MAN?

RYOHEI! HANG TIGHT!

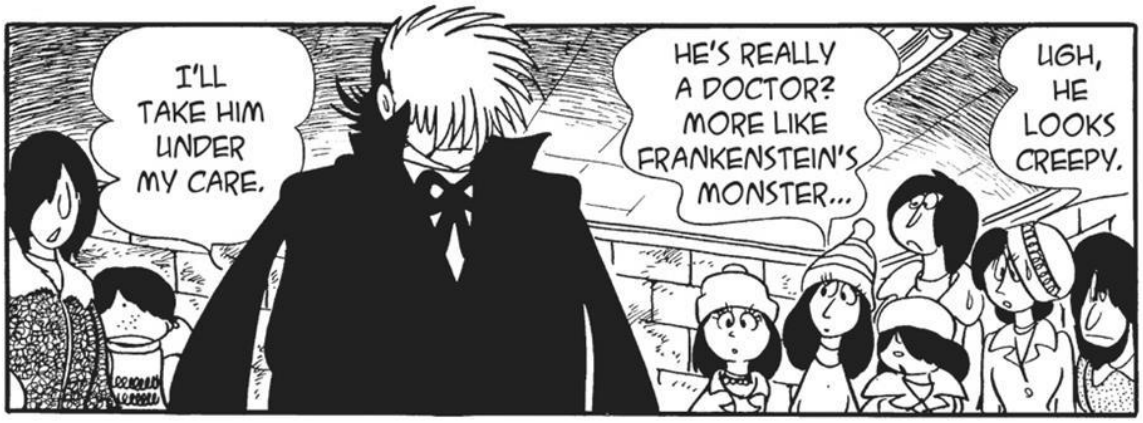
MOVE AWAY!
WE WERE VISITING. THEN I LOST HIM...

H... HE'S MY SON!


BOM
BOM
THUD

YOU HAVE A DOCTOR HERE.

HE NEEDS A DOCTOR DOWNSIDE, BUT WE HAVE TO STAY PUT FOR A WHILE...
WE CAN'T EVEN GIVE HIM FIRST AID HERE.


I'LL TAKE HIM UNDER MY CARE.
HE'S REALLY A DOCTOR? MORE LIKE FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER...
UGH, HE LOOKS CREEPY.

I'VE SEEN HIM ON TV.
THE CEO OF THAT HUGE COMPANY !
SO HE'S ...

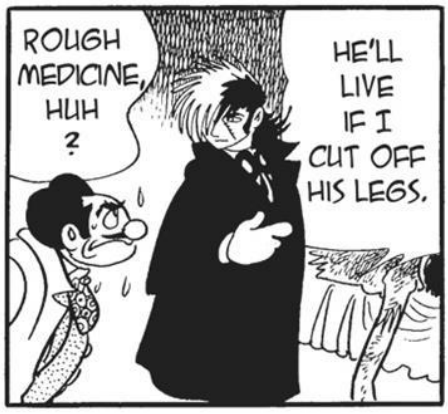
...
WILL YOU LET ME, MR. CEO? OF NIPPACHI TRADING ?

WILL HE MAKE IT? BE STRAIGHT.

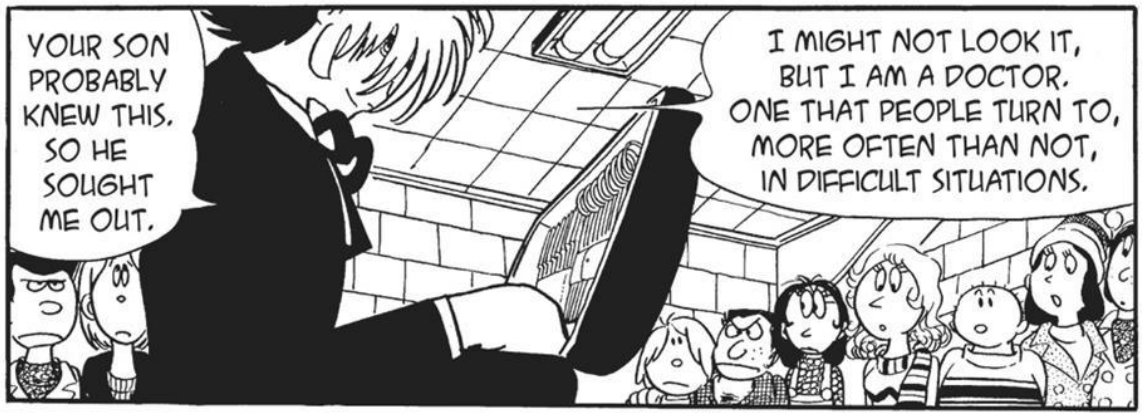
WELL ?

WHAT A PITY.

TWENTY MILLION YEN.
IT'S GOING TO COST YOU SOME.


ROUGH MEDICINE, HUH ?
HE'LL LIVE IF I CUT OFF HIS LEGS.

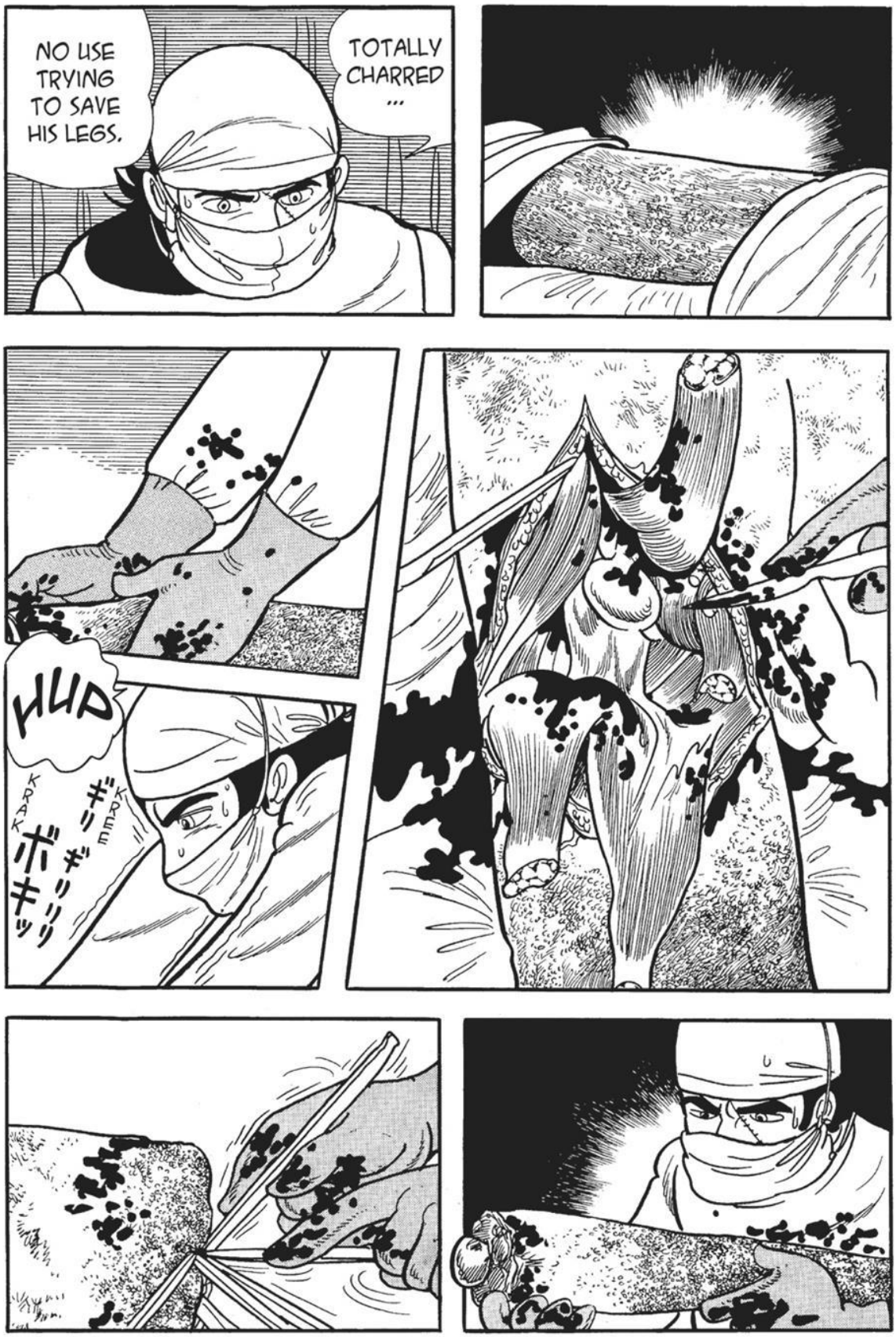
YOU CAN AFFORD IT TOO, NIPPACHI CEO.
HEH HEH. THAT'S A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY FOR YOUR SON'S LIFE.
TWENTY MILLION YEN ?!
SAY WHAT ?!
YOUR SON GUARANTEED PAYMENT.
B-BUT TWENTY MILLION YEN ?!
I... I DON'T BUY THIS !
HERE'S THE LETTER. WANNA READ IT ?
"PLEASE BE UP THERE ON THE MOUNTAIN. IF I GET HURT, TREAT ME. MY FATHER WILL PAY YOU YOUR FEES WITHOUT FAIL."
HE WROTE ME A LETTER. "TODAY I'LL BE VISITING MT. ROAR WITH MY FATHER. I MIGHT GET HURT."
DON'T LIE TO ME !


YOUR SON PROBABLY KNEW THIS. SO HE SOUGHT ME OUT.
I MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT I AM A DOCTOR. ONE THAT PEOPLE TURN TO, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

I'LL PAY IF YOU SAVE HIM.

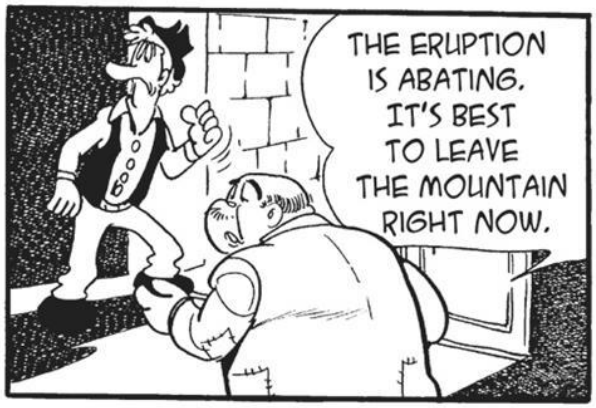
OKAY? NOW GET ON WITH IT...

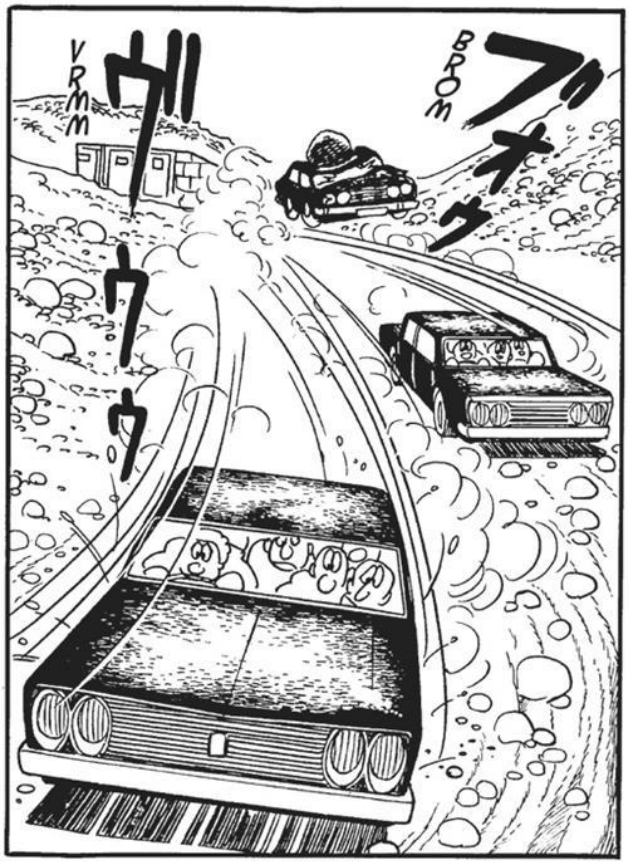
DO I HAVE DONORS? TYPE B OR O.
I NEED BLOOD.


NO USE TRYING TO SAVE HIS LEGS.
TOTALLY CHARRED ...
HUP
ボキッ
ボキッ
ミギッ
ミギッ

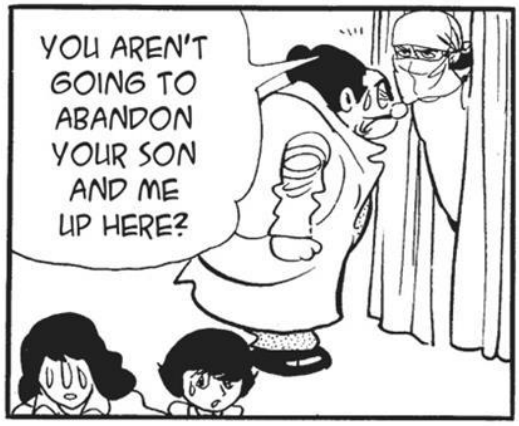
わ21-77

SHARE THE CARS THAT WORK!
QUICK ...


THE ERUPTION IS ABATING. IT'S BEST TO LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN RIGHT NOW.

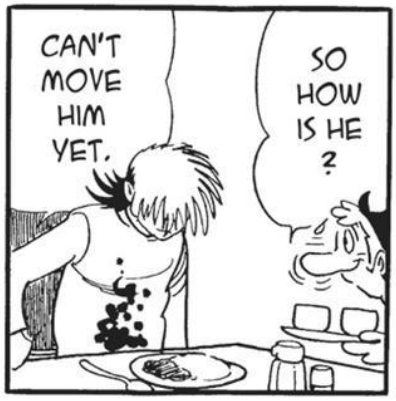

VRMM
ウウウ
BROM
ブオング

MR. CEO, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

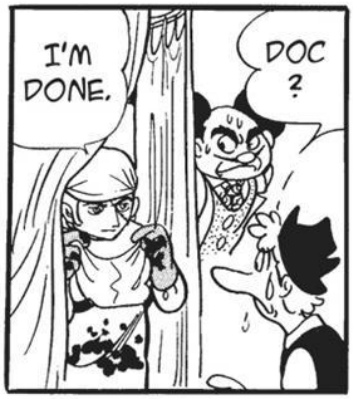

YOU AREN'T GOING TO ABANDON YOUR SON AND ME UP HERE?

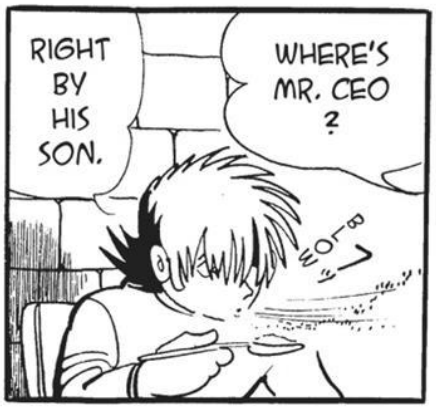
YOU WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT YOUR SON.

LOOK AT YOU! RELAX.


CAN'T MOVE HIM YET.
SO HOW IS HE ?

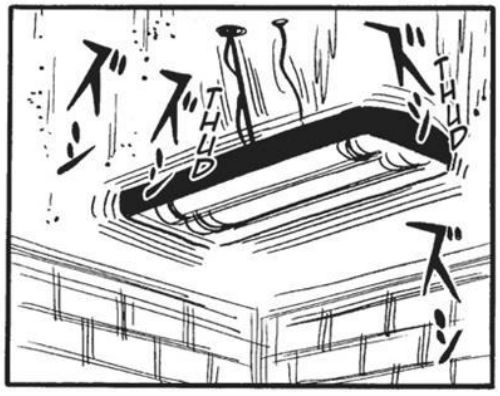
READY TO EAT ?


I'M DONE.
DOC ?


RIGHT BY HIS SON.
WHERE'S MR. CEO ?

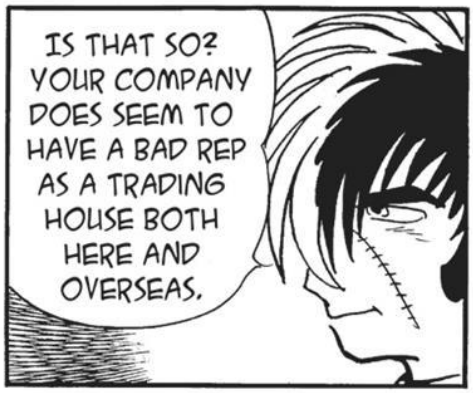
SORRY, KITCHEN'S FULL OF ASHES.
RICE WITH HASHED MEAT... MORE LIKE ASH MEAT.

RUMBLE
IT'S STARTED AGAIN.


ズン
ズン
THUD
ドン
THUD
ズン

GTUN
GTUN
UH OH ...
WHAT WAS THAT ?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!

LEAVE ME ALONE. MY SON'S BETTER OFF DEAD.
HE'LL DIE !!
I JUST OPERATED ON HIM— YOUR OWN SON! WHY BRING HIM OUT HERE ?
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE BUTTED INTO THIS.
YOU WANT HIM DEAD SO BADLY?
HE IS MY ONLY SON. I DOTED ON HIM...


IS THAT SO? YOUR COMPANY DOES SEEM TO HAVE A BAD REP AS A TRADING HOUSE BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS.

A LATECOMER CAN'T BE A SAINT IN MY BUSINESS.
SURE, IT'S ALL JUST MONEY WITH US.

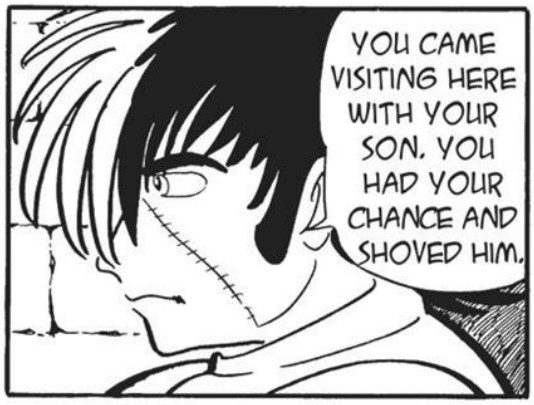
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? HE SAID HE'D JUST DISSOLVE THE COMPANY. THE HOUSE THAT I MADE INTO WHAT IT IS NOW WITH MY BLOOD AND TOIL!
I WANTED HIM TO TAKE OVER AFTER ME AS CEO.

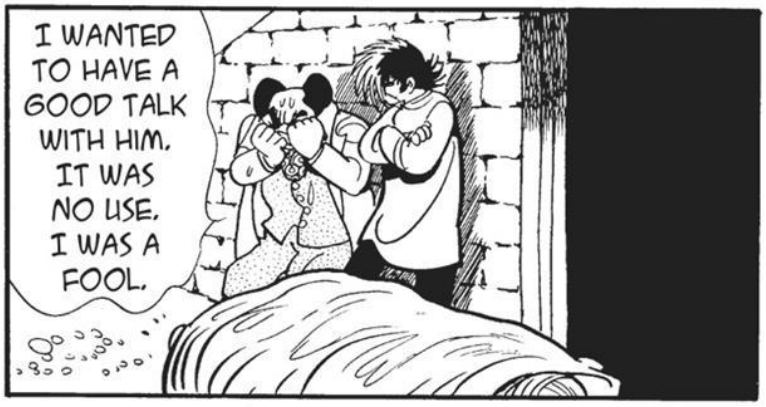
BUT YOUR SON COULDN'T STAND IT THAT YOUR COMPANY MAKES PEOPLE SUFFER AND THAT IT'S REVILED... SO HE BETRAYED HIS FATHER.

AND YOUR LOVE TURNED INTO HATE JUST AS STRONG.

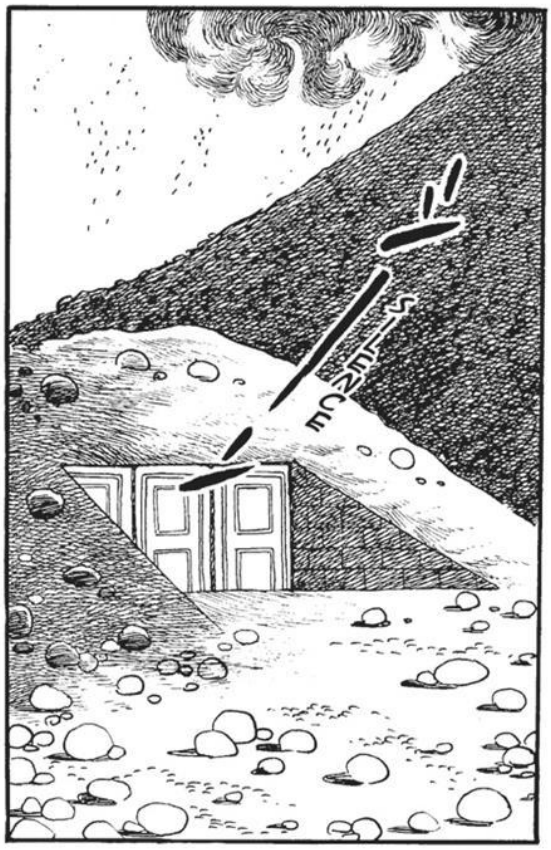
WE HAD MANY, MANY ARGUMENTS. THEN I GAVE UP ON HIM.
TALK ABOUT BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU.

IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY...


YOU CAME VISITING HERE WITH YOUR SON. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE AND SHOVED HIM.

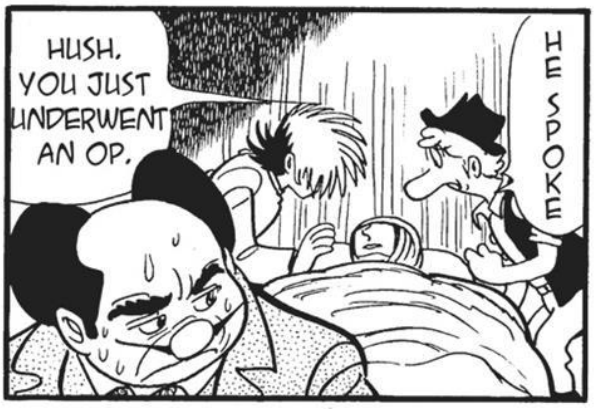

I WANTED TO HAVE A GOOD TALK WITH HIM. IT WAS NO USE. I WAS A FOOL.

BUT SEEING WHAT WAS COMING, HE HAD WRITTEN TO ME.


SWOOSH

YOUR SON WILL LIVE. YOU'RE GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A FAMILY MEMBER.

LET'S GET INSIDE.

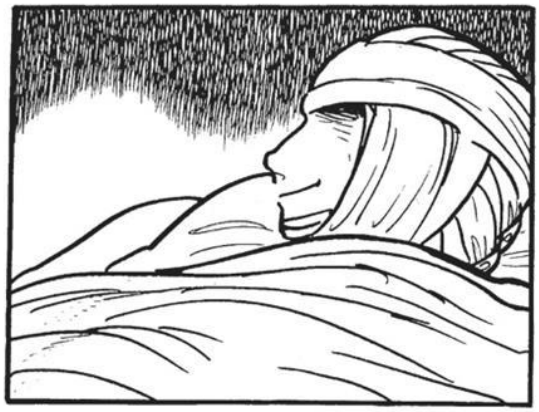

HUSH. YOU JUST UNDERWENT AN OP.
HE SPOKE

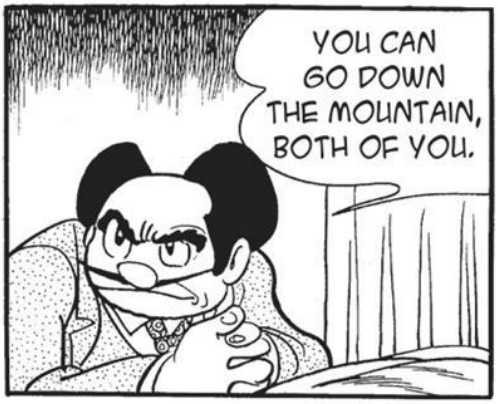
HI...
DAD...?

DAD, I'M SORRY IF I'VE WORRIED YOU.
HA HA, NO NO. I JUST LOST MY FOOTING ...

I FOUND YOU IN THE MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO. YOU WEREN'T PUSHED OVER? OR WAS IT SUICIDE ?

...



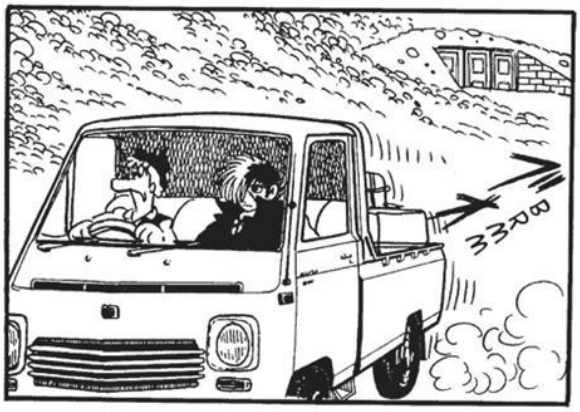

YOU CAN GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, BOTH OF YOU.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MY SON.

HMM, WHAT TO DO? I GOT SOME CHORES TO RUN ...
HE NEEDS A WEEK OF ABSOLUTE REST. WE CAN'T MOVE HIM.

PLEASE... I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH MY SON. I BEG YOU.

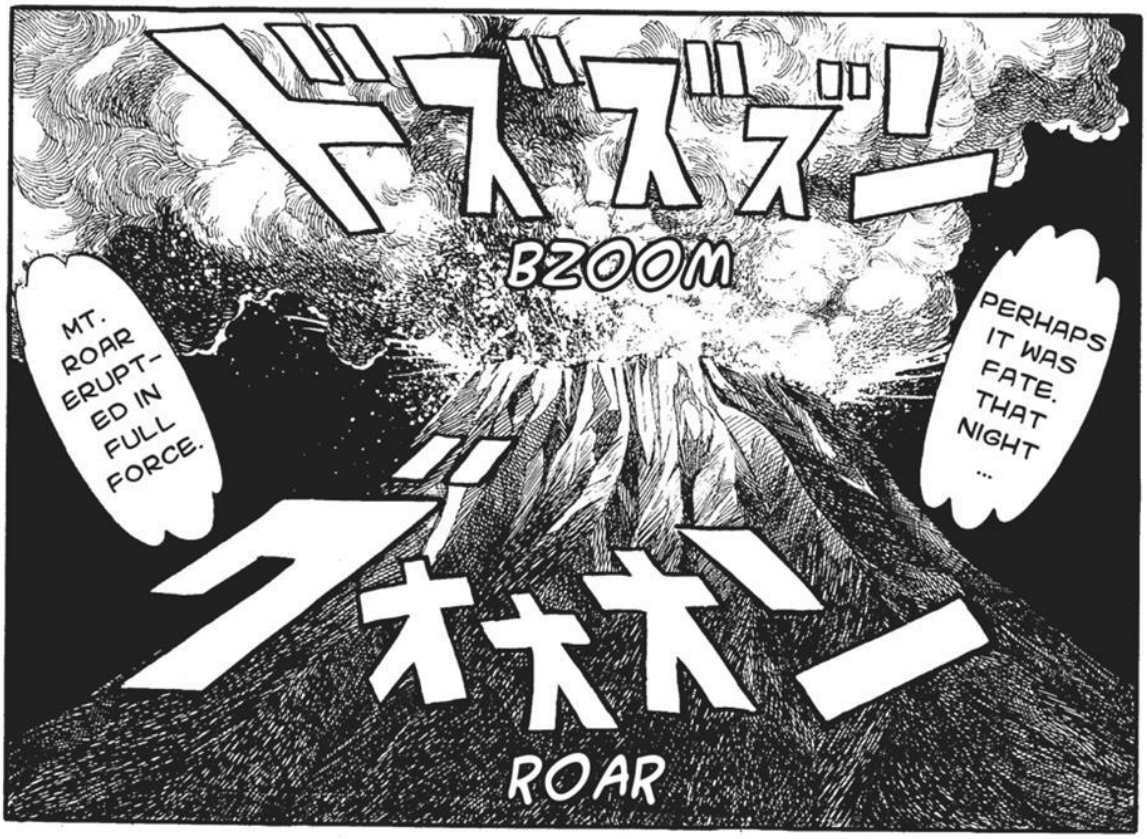
AS HIS DOCTOR, I MUST STAY.
JUST HAVE AN AMBULANCE COME PICK US UP.



AS YOU WISH ...

BUT WE NEED TO TALK, JUST THE TWO OF US.

DAD, YOU'RE STILL HERE? IT'S NOT SAFE HERE.
NO ...

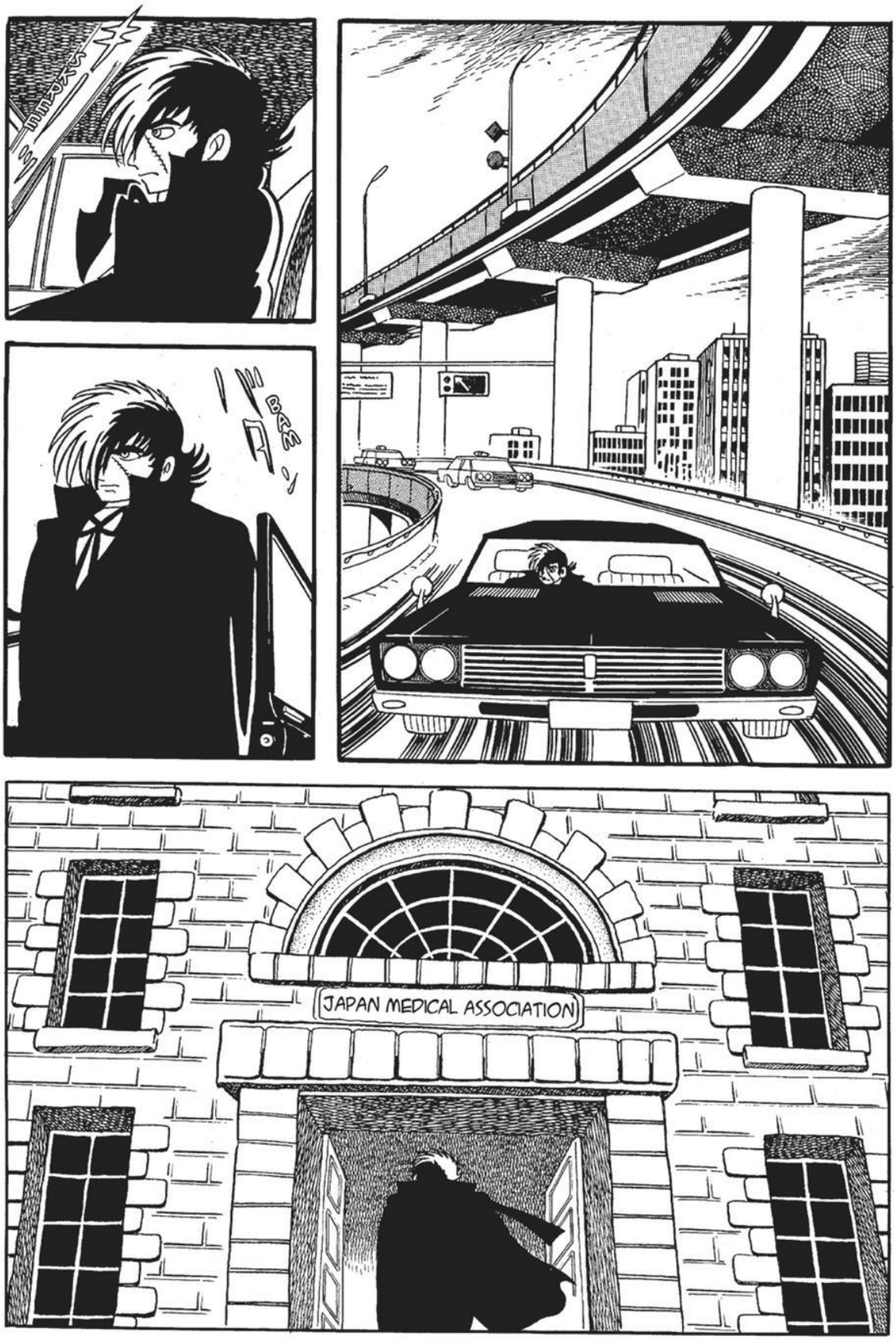

ドズズズーン
BZOOM
MT. ROAR ERUPTED IN FULL FORCE.
PERHAPS IT WAS FATE. THAT NIGHT ...
ゴォォォーン
ROAR

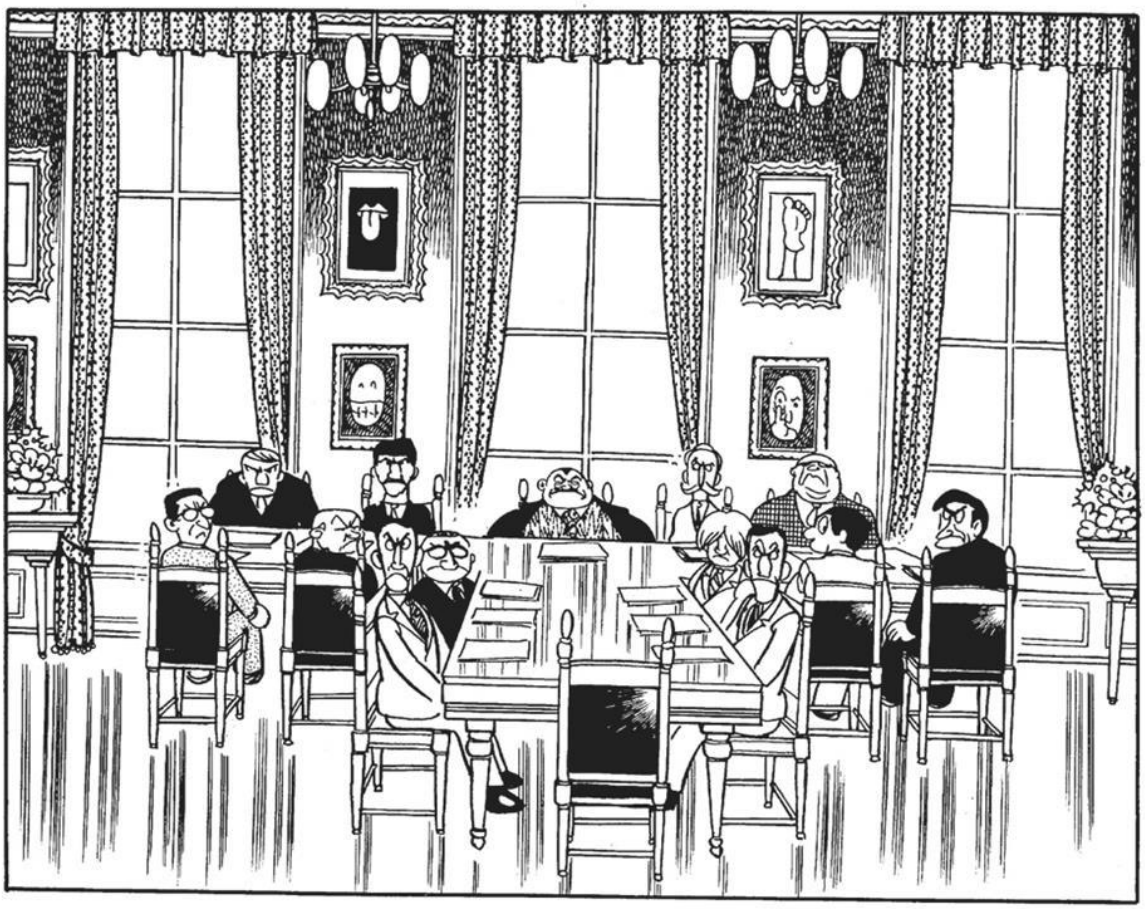
PLACE WAS, UM, STEAMED... TWO DEAD. THEIR HANDS WERE CLASPED TIGHT.
ONE OF THEM WAS MISSING BOTH LEGS.

HOW DID IT GO ?
NO GOOD. IT WAS BURIED IN ASHES ...

LAST NIGHT WAS SOME-THING ELSE!
HELP US GET PEOPLE OUT OF THE SHELTER.

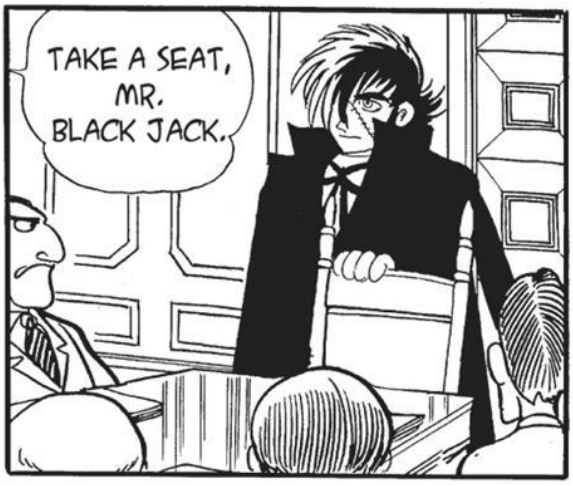
REVENGE


BRR
JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

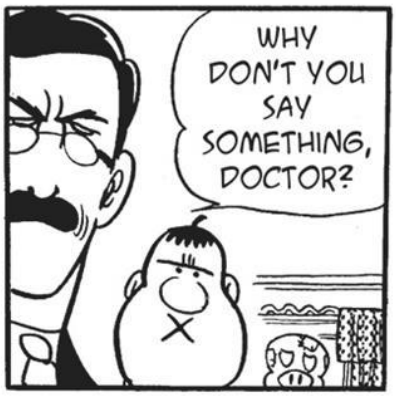


JIL

SO... DO YOU KNOW WHY THE JMA HAS SUMMONED YOU ?


TAKE A SEAT, MR. BLACK JACK.

YOU KNOW THAT IT'S AGAINST THE LAW, YES?
YET YOU BOLDLY PRACTICE AND CHARGE LARGE FEES.
YOU HAVE NO MEDICAL LICENSE.
WE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES WE'VE WARNED YOU. WE WERE WASTING OUR BREATH.
YOU MUST ALSO JOIN THE JMA AND CHARGE NO MORE THAN THE AGREED FEE FROM NOW ON.
TAKE THE NATIONAL EXAM AND ACQUIRE A LICENSE.
BUT THIS IS OUR FINAL WARNING.

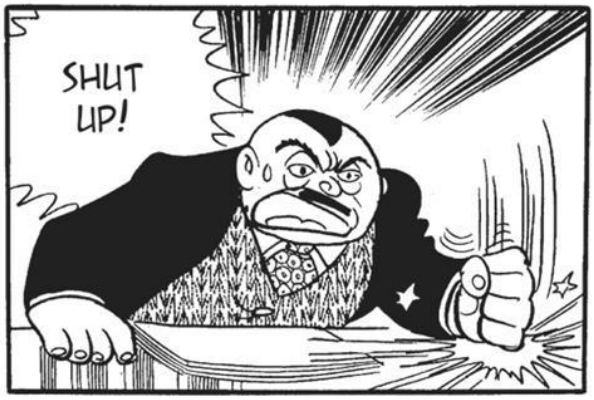

WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, DOCTOR?

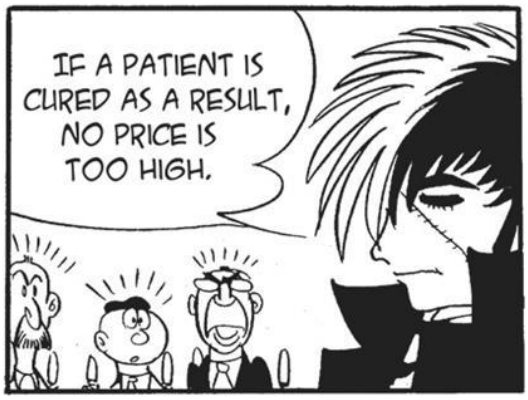
...

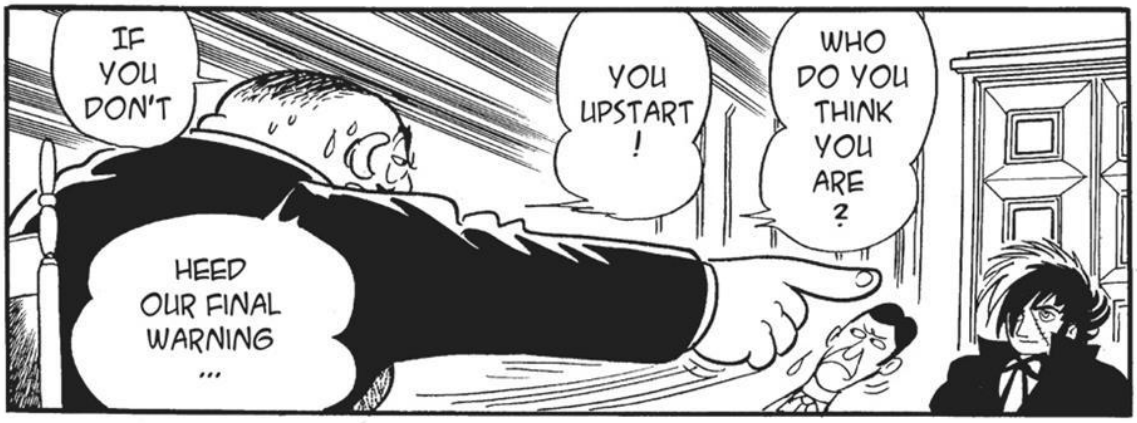
YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS, DOCTOR BLACK JACK ?

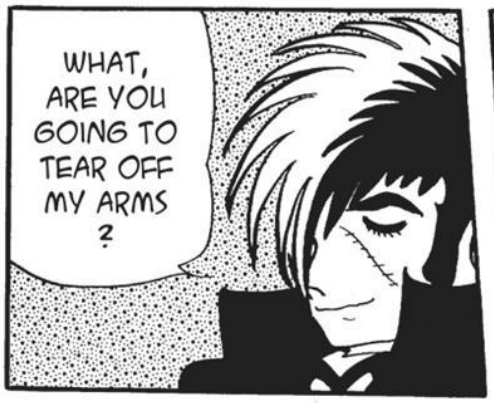
WHEN I TREAT PATIENTS, I STAKE MY VERY LIFE ON IT.

I HAVE A HARD TIME TAKING JMA'S FEES GUIDELINES SERIOUSLY.


SHUT UP!

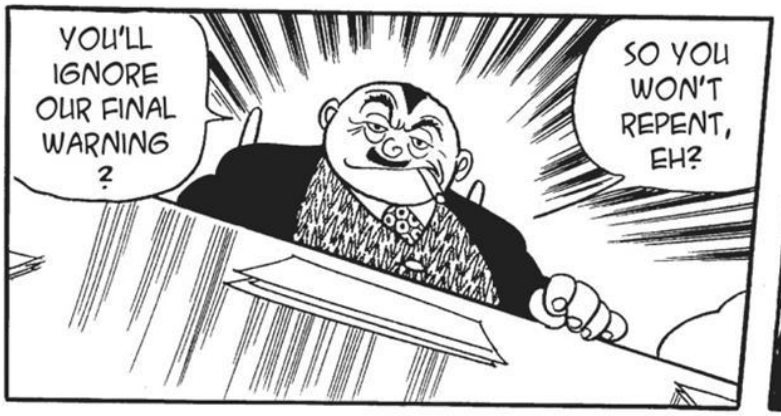

IF A PATIENT IS CURED AS A RESULT, NO PRICE IS TOO HIGH.


IF YOU DON'T
YOU UPSTART !
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ?
HEED OUR FINAL WARNING ...


WHAT, ARE YOU GOING TO TEAR OFF MY ARMS ?

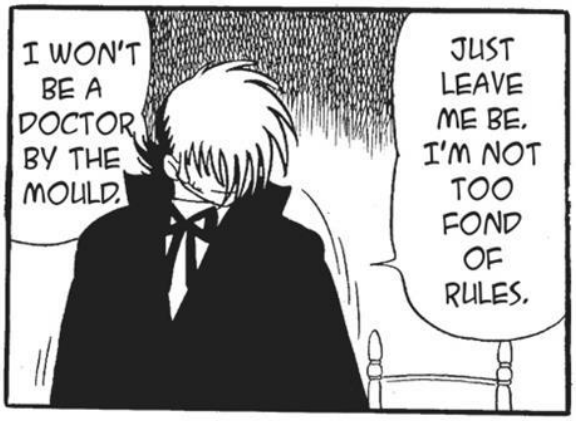
WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER OPERATE AGAIN.

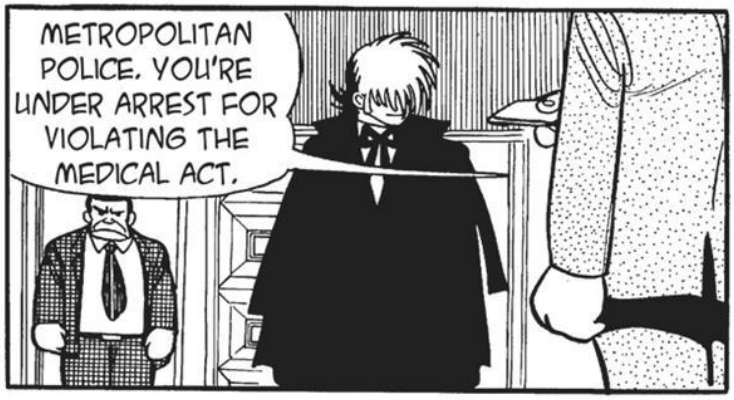
THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED THE LAW! A MAN WHO PLAYS DOCTOR WITHOUT A LICENSE CAN BE ELIMINATED FROM SOCIETY. ANYTIME.


YOU'LL IGNORE OUR FINAL WARNING ?
SO YOU WON'T REPENT, EH?

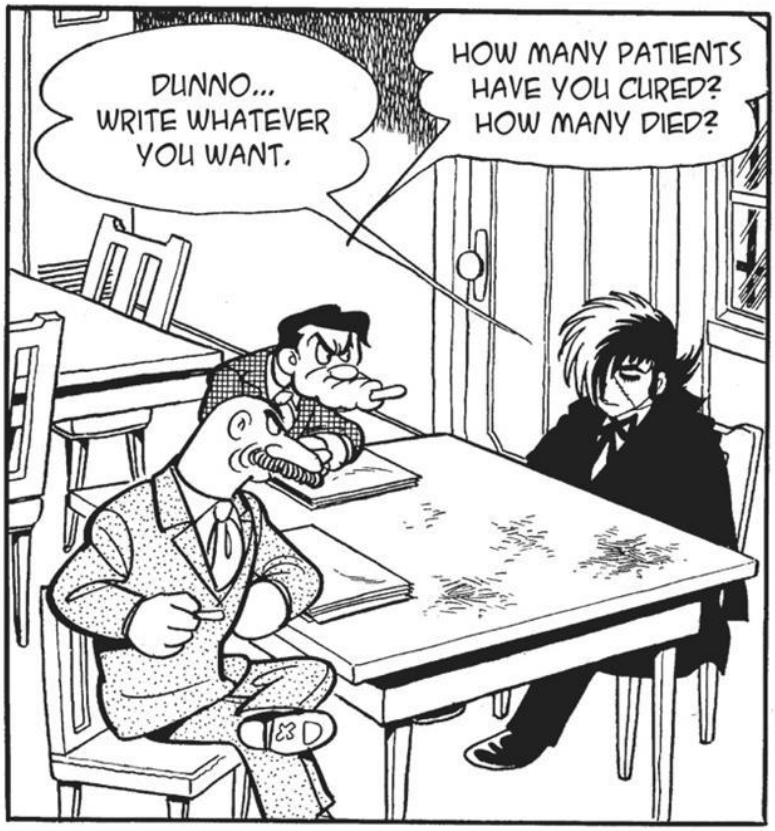
THEN GO AHEAD.

EXCUSE ME.
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
BUZZ

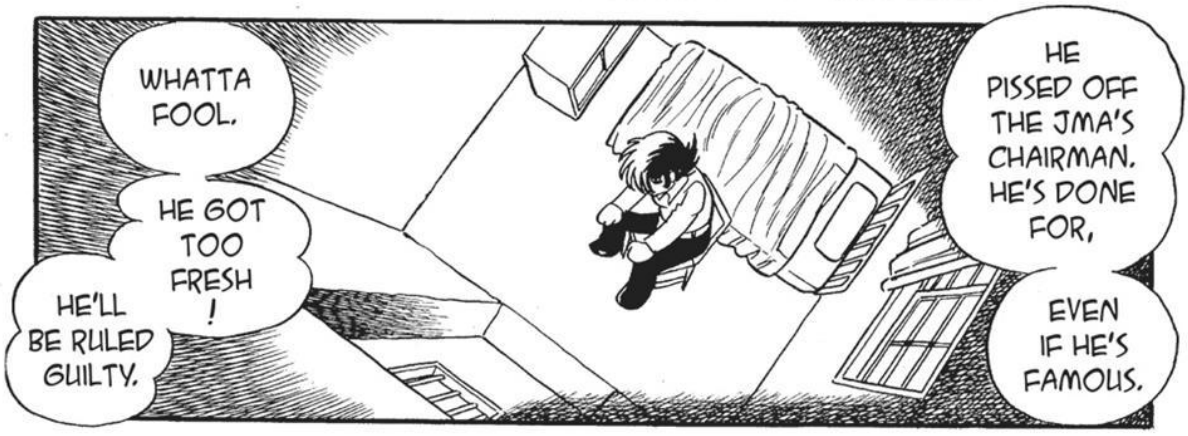

I WON'T BE A DOCTOR BY THE MOULD.
JUST LEAVE ME BE. I'M NOT TOO FOND OF RULES.

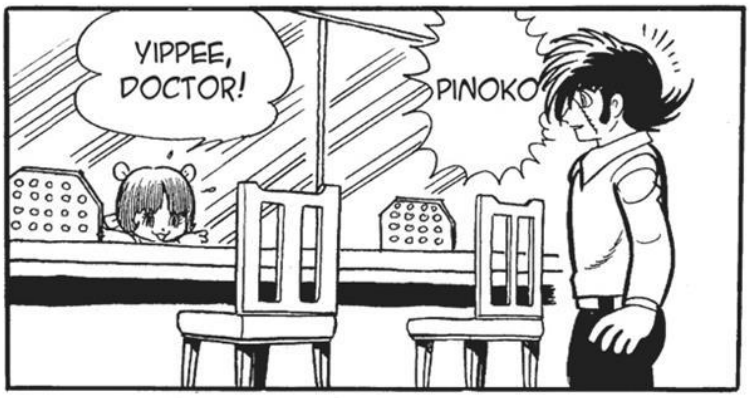

METROPOLITAN POLICE. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR VIOLATING THE MEDICAL ACT.

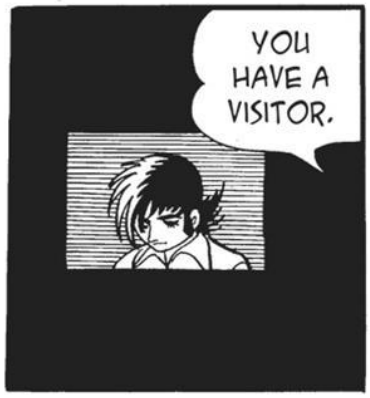
I'VE NO CHOICE!


DUNNO... WRITE WHATEVER YOU WANT.
HOW MANY PATIENTS HAVE YOU CURED? HOW MANY DIED?

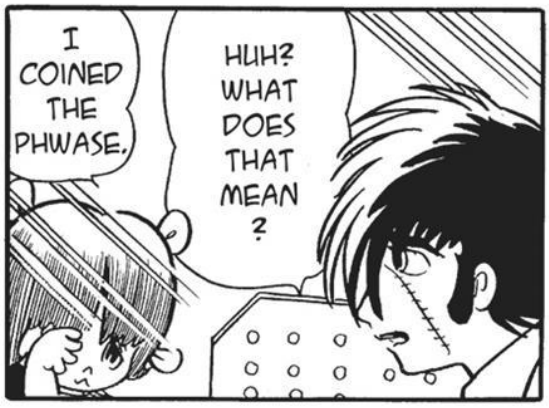
AT LAST.


WHATTA FOOL.
HE GOT TOO FRESH!
HE'LL BE RULED GUILTY.
HE PISSED OFF THE JMA'S CHAIRMAN. HE'S DONE FOR,
EVEN IF HE'S FAMOUS.


YIPPEE, DOCTOR!
PINOKO


YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

I WAS ARRESTED FOR BEING UNLICENSED.
WHY DID YOU GET AWWESHTED? DID YOU DO SHOMEFING BAD? YOU SHOULD HAVE ASHKED PINOKO FIRST!


I COINED THE PHWASE.
HUH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?

A DOCTOR WHO ONLY HAS A DWIVER'S LISHENCE IS SHO ACCHON BURIKE!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU ?!

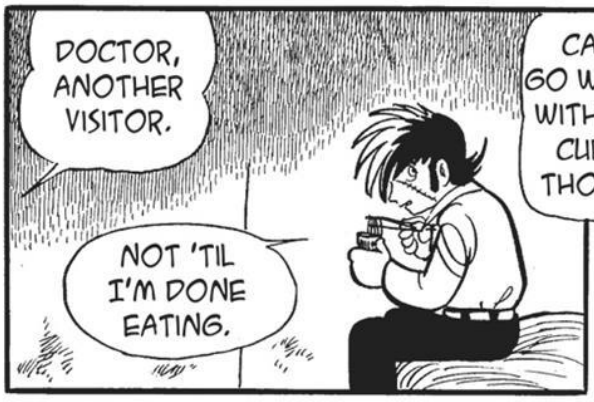
KISH ME...

WRONG TERM, BUT THANKS.

HERE, SHEASON'S GWEET-INGS...

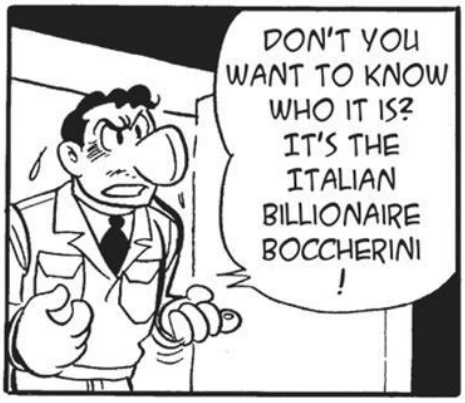
BURIKE ACCHON

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BRUSHING YOUR TEETH!


DOCTOR, ANOTHER VISITOR.
NOT 'TIL I'M DONE EATING.
CAN'T GO WRONG WITH BON CURRY, THOUGH.

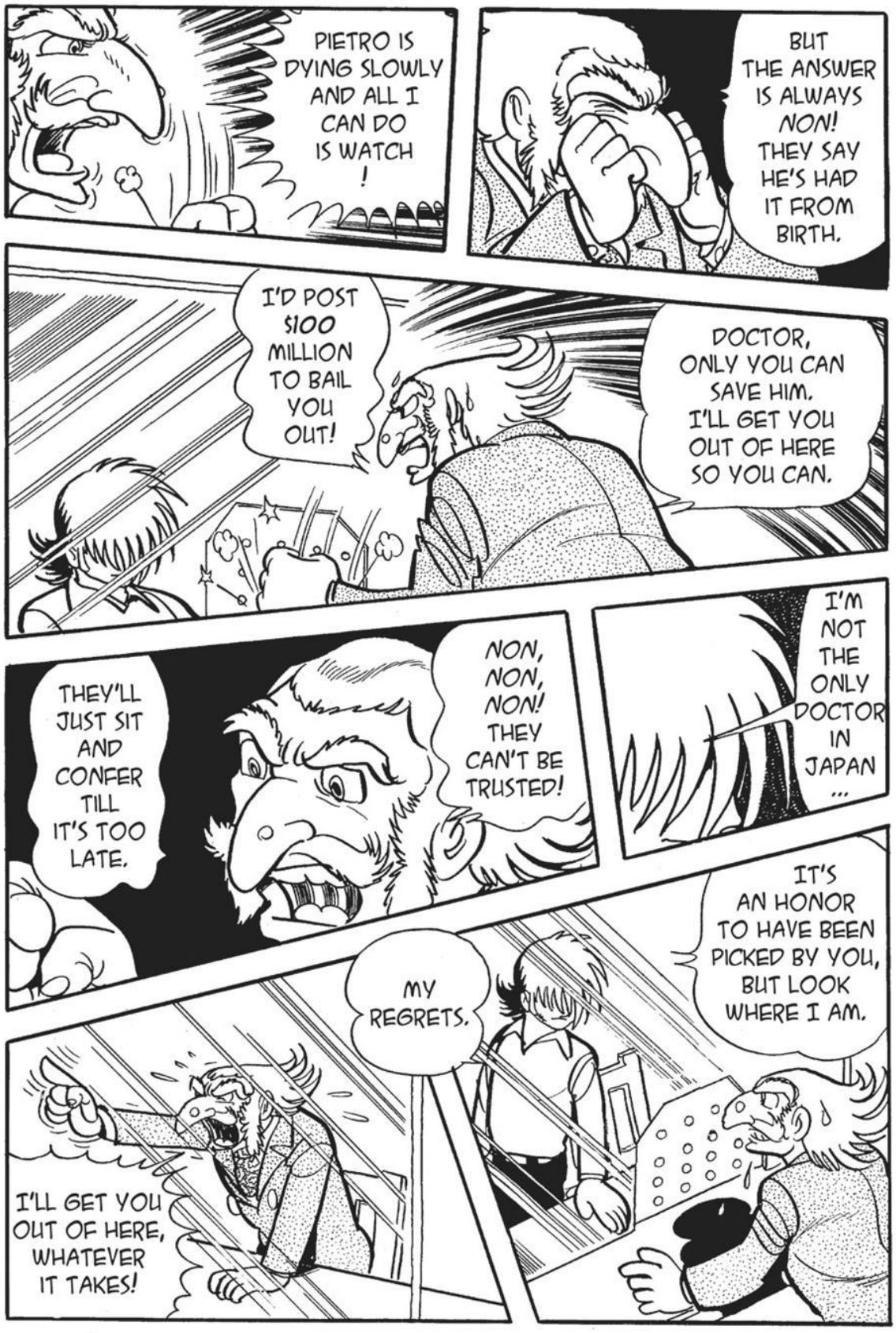
BON CURRY AND CUP O' NOODLES. NOTHING ELSE?

DOCTOR BLACK JACK !

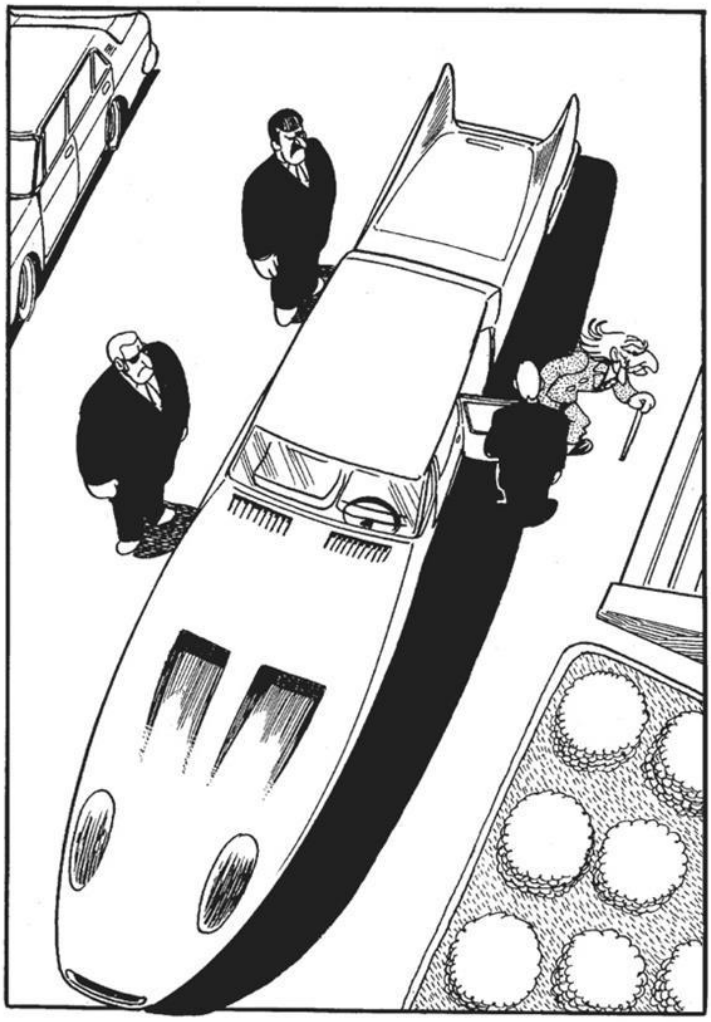

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO IT IS? IT'S THE ITALIAN BILLIONAIRE BOCCHERINI !

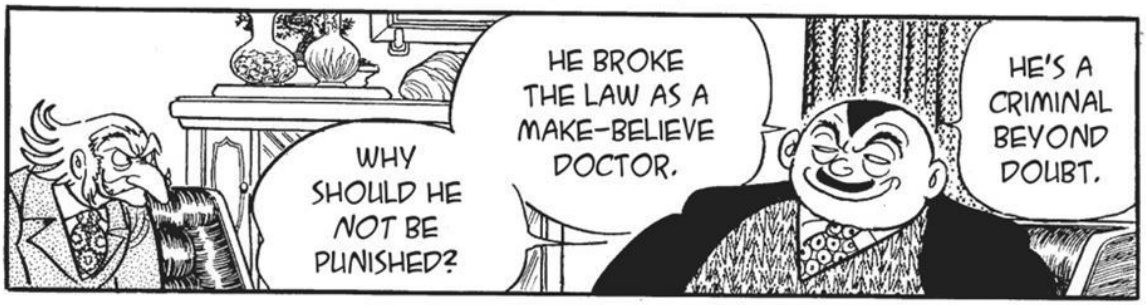
I SAID I'M NOT DONE EATING.

SHAME ON ME.
WHEN I CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR YOUR AUDIENCE !
TO FIND YOU IN SUCH A PLACE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MY NAME IS BOCCHERINI. PLEASE HELP MY GRANDCHILD! PLEASE SAVE HIS LIFE!
I CAME TO SEEK YOUR AID.
DO YOU KNOW IT?
HE HAS SOMETHING CALLED ESSENTIAL ARTERIAL THROMBOSIS.
TELL ME MORE.
WE'VE TAKEN HIM TO HOSPITALS NOT JUST IN ITALY BUT AROUND THE WORLD.
THEY TRY THEIR BEST ...
YES, I DO ...


PIETRO IS DYING SLOWLY AND ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH !
BUT THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS NON! THEY SAY HE'S HAD IT FROM BIRTH.
I'D POST $100 MILLION TO BAIL YOU OUT!
DOCTOR, ONLY YOU CAN SAVE HIM. I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE SO YOU CAN.
THEY'LL JUST SIT AND CONFER TILL IT'S TOO LATE.
NON, NON, NON! THEY CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
I'M NOT THE ONLY DOCTOR IN JAPAN ...
IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE BEEN PICKED BY YOU, BUT LOOK WHERE I AM.
MY REGRETS.
I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE, WHATEVER IT TAKES!

SIGNORE, I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT NO, NOT THAT.
THE JMA DOESN'T CONSIDER HIM TO BE A DOCTOR.

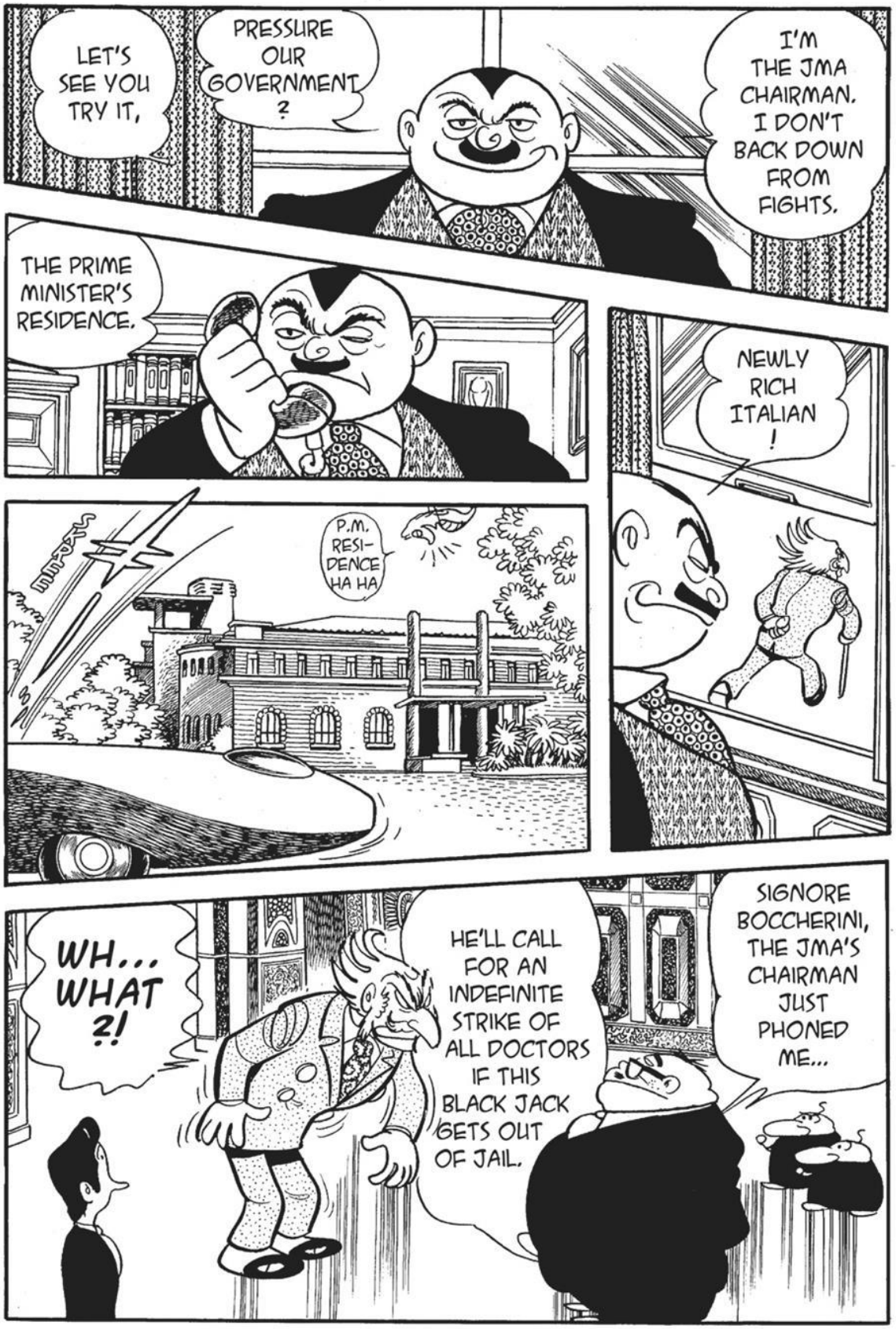



WHY SHOULD HE NOT BE PUNISHED?
HE BROKE THE LAW AS A MAKE-BELIEVE DOCTOR.
HE'S A CRIMINAL BEYOND DOUBT.

IF WE LET HIM GO...

LOOK AT ME. ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT A MAN IS BEGGING FOR ACCESS TO HIS SKILLS?

WE DOCTORS HAVE OUR PRIDE!
ANYTHING BUT WHAT YOU ASK.
THERE'LL BE MORE UNDER-GROUND DOCTORS IN OUR NATION.
UH
WHAT IF I PLEDGED TO DONATE $10 MILLION TO THE JMA?
FINE, THEN !!
WE'VE ENOUGH TO ROT. DON'T TRY TO BRIBE ME ...
WE DON'T NEED YOUR MONEY,
AH, HOW GRAND.
TO GET BLACK JACK OUT OF JAIL!
YOU SEEM TO UNDERESTIMATE ME. IF I HAVE TO, I'LL PRESSURE THE GOVERN-MENTS OF ITALY AND JAPAN...


LET'S SEE YOU TRY IT,
PRESSURE OUR GOVERNMENT ?
I'M THE JMA CHAIRMAN. I DON'T BACK DOWN FROM FIGHTS.
THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE.
NEWLY RICH ITALIAN !
P.M. RESI-DENCE HA HA
WH... WHAT ?!
HE'LL CALL FOR AN INDEFINITE STRIKE OF ALL DOCTORS IF THIS BLACK JACK GETS OUT OF JAIL.
SIGNORE BOCCHERINI, THE JMA'S CHAIRMAN JUST PHONED ME...

IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
IF ALL DOCTORS WENT ON STRIKE,
THAT HAS TO BE A BLUFF !
PLEASE UNDERSTAND.

BUT THERE ARE ISSUES.
EHRR, I AM, INDEED ...

AREN'T YOU THE PRIME MINISTER ?!

NO DOCTOR YET?
MAKE ME BETTER
I DON'T WANNA DIE

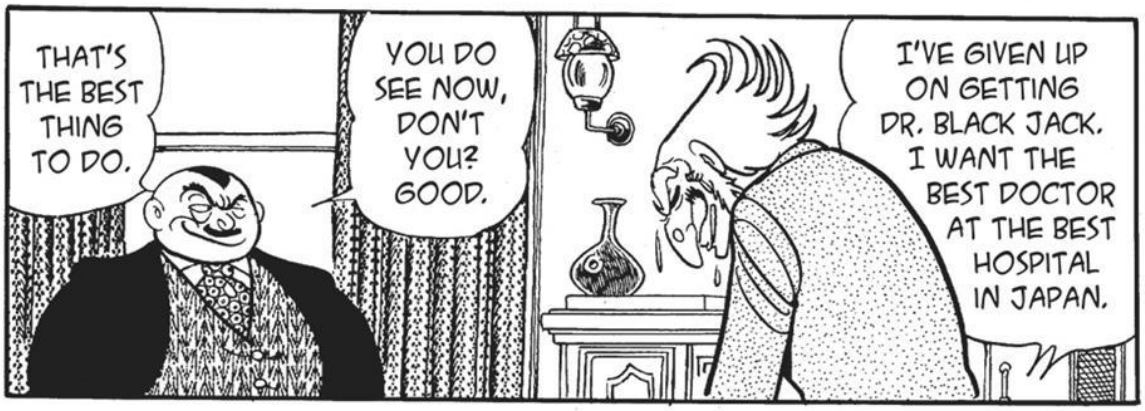
THE JMA HAS MORE POWER THAN I DO.
BY WHICH I MEAN, HA HA...

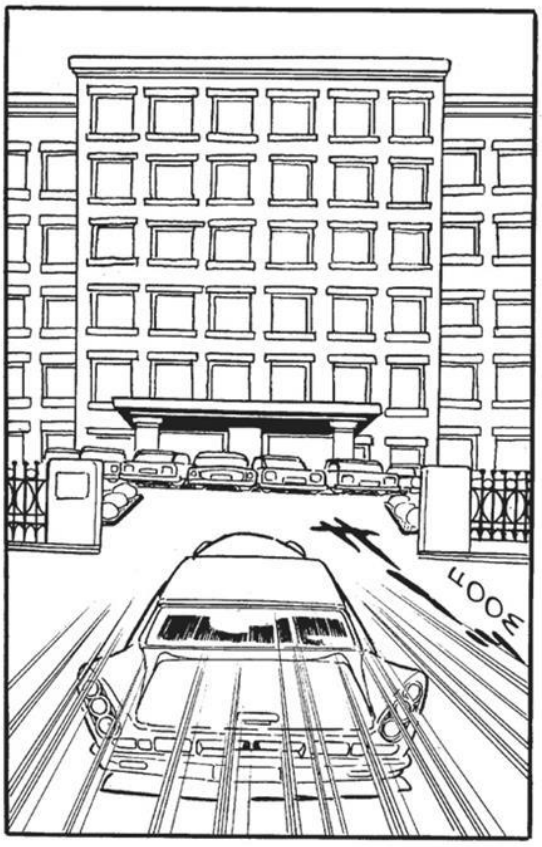
MY DEAR PIETRO...
" SOB "
PIETRO

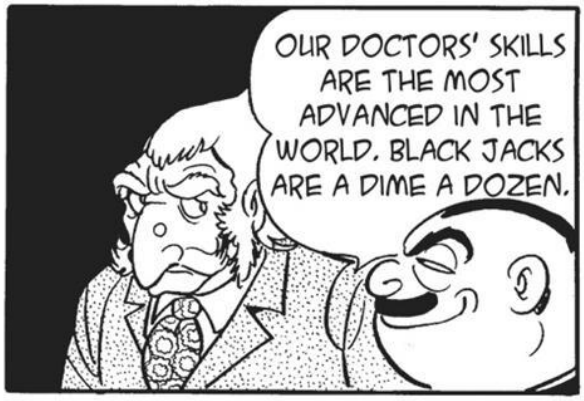
I WANNA GO HOME AND PLAY.

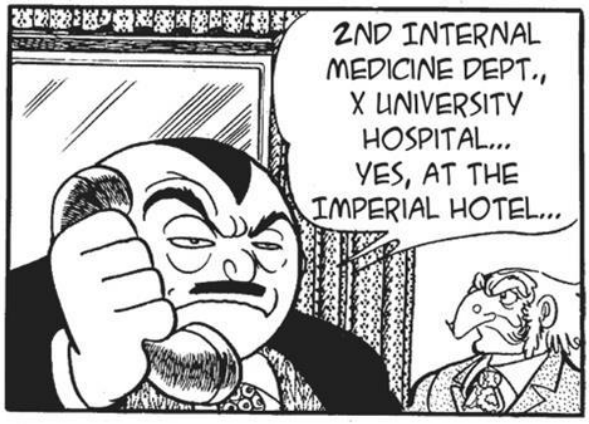
IT'S TRUE THIS TIME ?

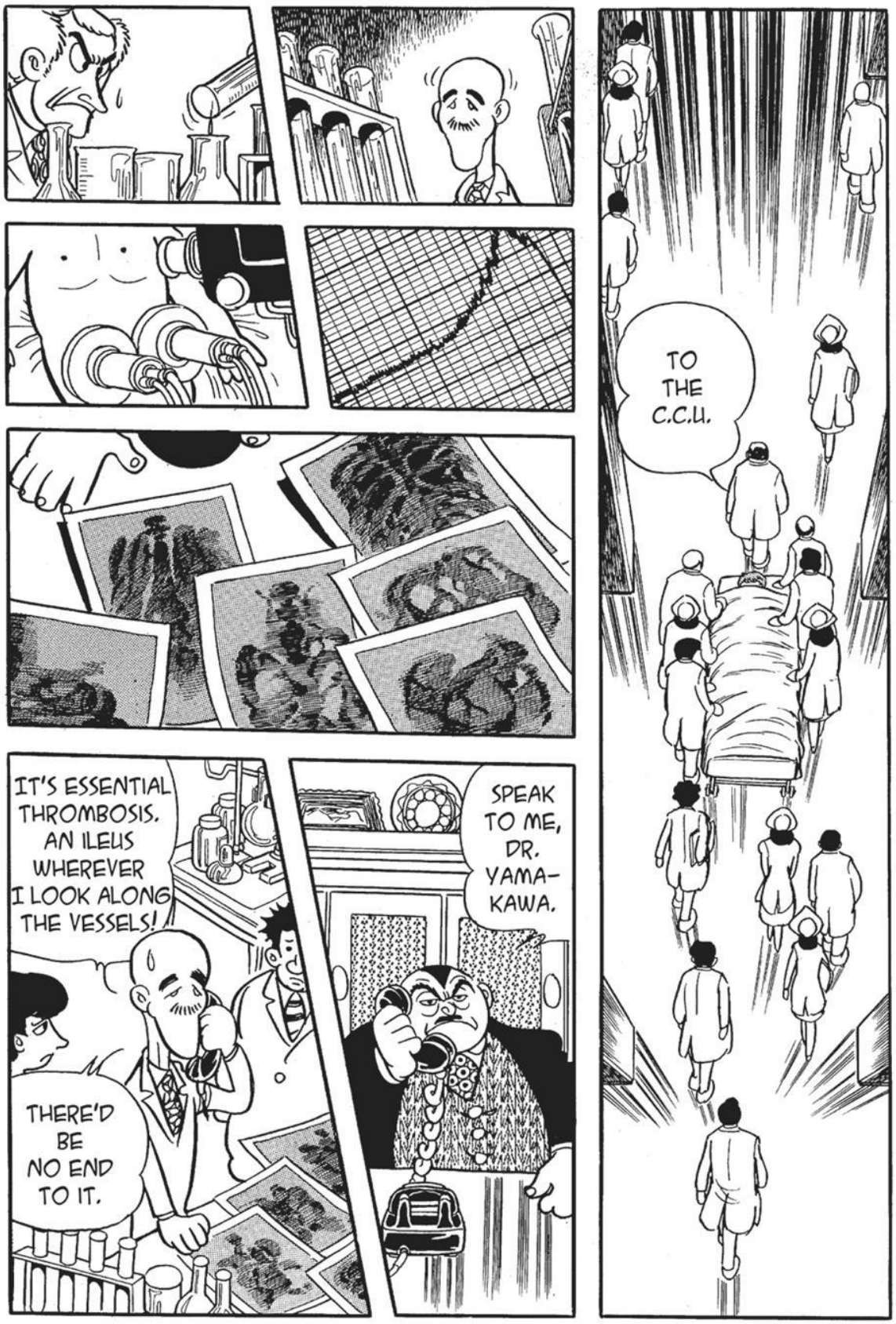
BAMBINO, GRANDPA WILL BRING YOU A GREAT DOCTOR VERY SOON.

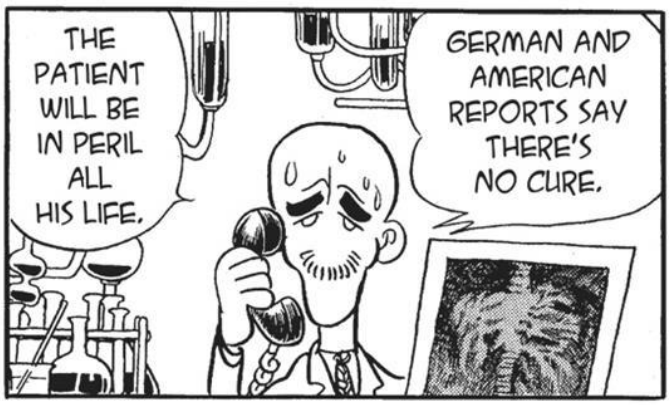

THAT'S THE BEST THING TO DO.
YOU DO SEE NOW, DON'T YOU? GOOD.
I'VE GIVEN UP ON GETTING DR. BLACK JACK. I WANT THE BEST DOCTOR AT THE BEST HOSPITAL IN JAPAN.

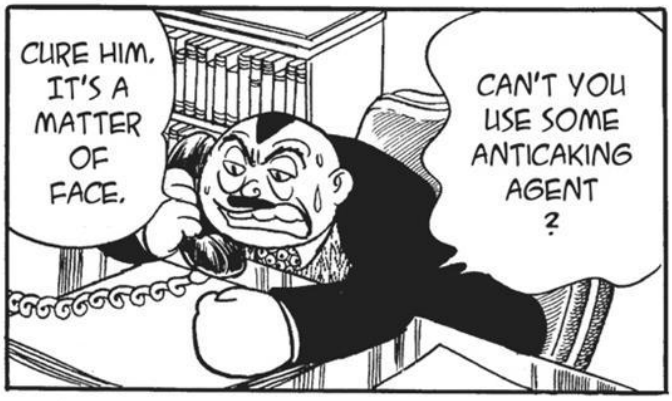

WOOM

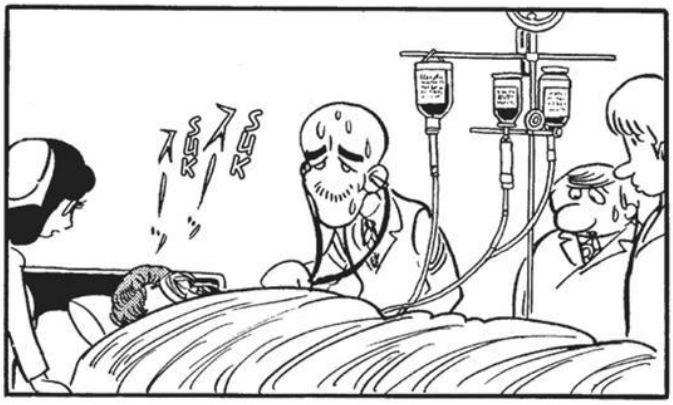

OUR DOCTORS' SKILLS ARE THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE WORLD. BLACK JACKS ARE A DIME A DOZEN.

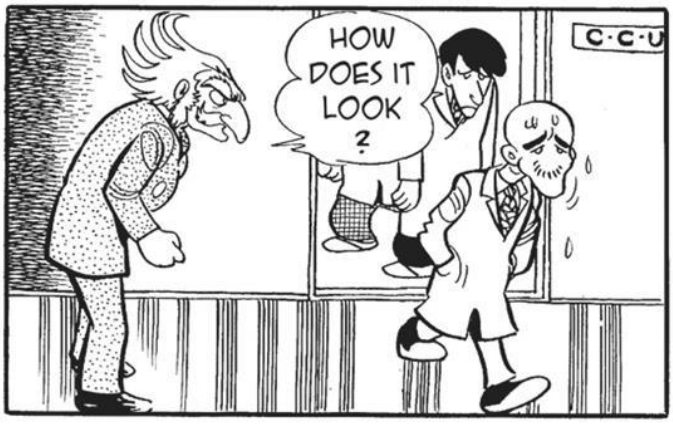

2ND INTERNAL MEDICINE DEPT., X UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL... YES, AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL...

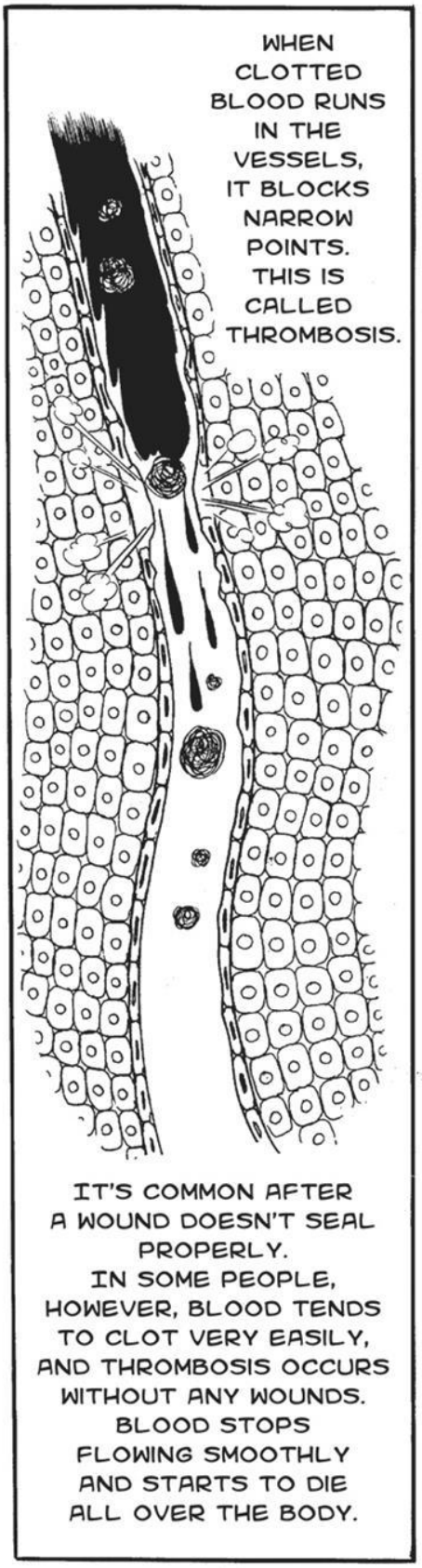

IT'S ESSENTIAL THROMBOSIS. AN ILEUS WHEREVER I LOOK ALONG THE VESSELS!
THERE'D BE NO END TO IT.
SPEAK TO ME, DR. YAMA-KAWA.
TO THE C.C.U.


THE PATIENT WILL BE IN PERIL ALL HIS LIFE.
GERMAN AND AMERICAN REPORTS SAY THERE'S NO CURE.


CURE HIM. IT'S A MATTER OF FACE.
CAN'T YOU USE SOME ANTICAKING AGENT ?




HOW DOES IT LOOK ?
C·C·U


WHEN CLOTTED BLOOD RUNS IN THE VESSELS, IT BLOCKS NARROW POINTS. THIS IS CALLED THROMBOSIS.
IT'S COMMON AFTER A WOUND DOESN'T SEAL PROPERLY. IN SOME PEOPLE, HOWEVER, BLOOD TENDS TO CLOT VERY EASILY, AND THROMBOSIS OCCURS WITHOUT ANY WOUNDS. BLOOD STOPS FLOWING SMOOTHLY AND STARTS TO DIE ALL OVER THE BODY.

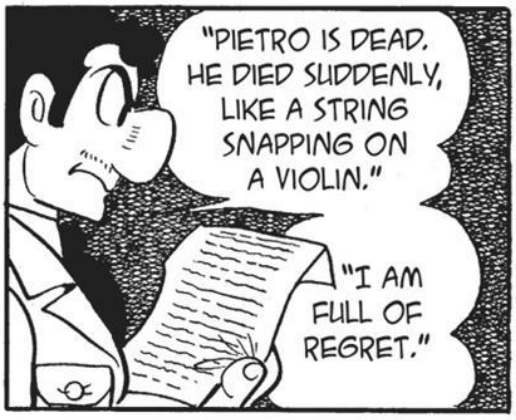
AIEE
CAN YOU CURE HIM OR NOT?
"HARD TO SAY"? I'VE ALREADY HEARD THAT! ALL AROUND THE WORLD !
DOCTOR!! THE BOY IS HAVING AN ATTACK!
ハアッ
ハアッ
SOME THEO-PHYL-LINE! NOW !
A CARDIAC INFARCTION !!
A CLOT IN THE HEART ...
ゴボッ
GLOP
ゴボッ
GLOP
COURAGE, PIETRO !!
OXYGEN! CARDIO-TONIC!

IF YOU DON'T SAVE HIM, YOU'LL PAY FOR IT!
THIS IS WHY I SAID ONLY BLACK JACK WOULD DO!!
...
IT'S LOOKING BAD.
ゴボリ GLOP
PIETRO!!
REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN IS GREAT; FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.
...

YOU'VE A MESSAGE FROM THE ITALIAN GENTLE-MAN.

DOCTOR

HE DIED ...
...


"PIETRO IS DEAD. HE DIED SUDDENLY, LIKE A STRING SNAPPING ON A VIOLIN."
"I AM FULL OF REGRET."

WHAT? PASSED AWAY? WHEN?

"I TRULY REGRET THIS TOO."
PLEASE CONVEY MY CONDO-LENCES:

SO SOON?
ALREADY AT THE AIRPORT WITH THE BOY'S BODY?
HOW IS MISTER BOCCHERINI TAKING IT?
I SEE... HE WAS TOO FAR GONE.
SON !!
BRAM
ROAR

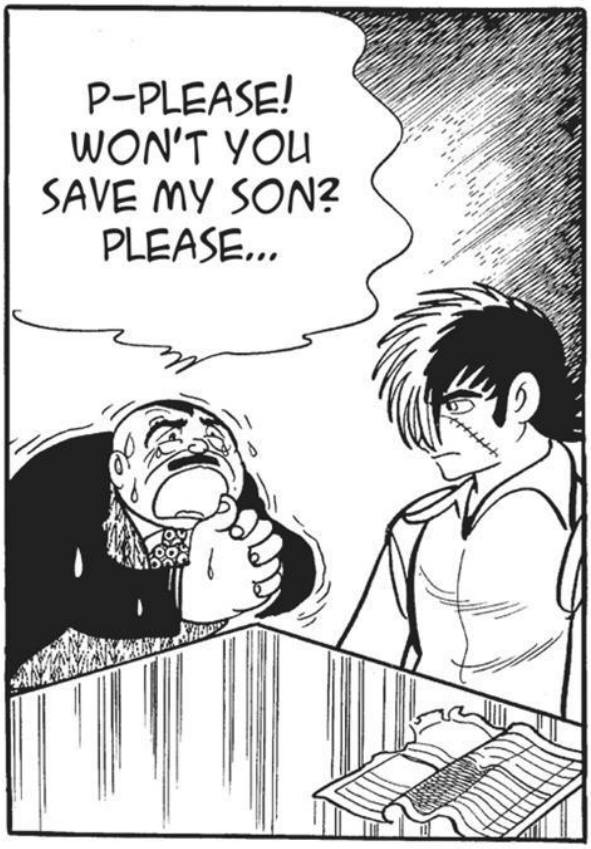
THAT PUFFED-UP CHAIRMAN NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON.
ABOUT THAT MATTER YOU REQUESTED... IT'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
ROAR
P... PIETRO ...
HE OUGHT TO HAVE FEARED THE MAFIA GODFATHER BOCCHERINI ...
HE'S ON LIFE SUPPORT.
ONE IN THE HEART !
3 BULLETS IN HIS CHEST ...
SO TELL ME !!
O... OPERATE ON HIM NOW !!
HE'LL BLEED TO DEATH, DOCTOR.
THE MOMENT HIS HEART STARTS BEATING ...

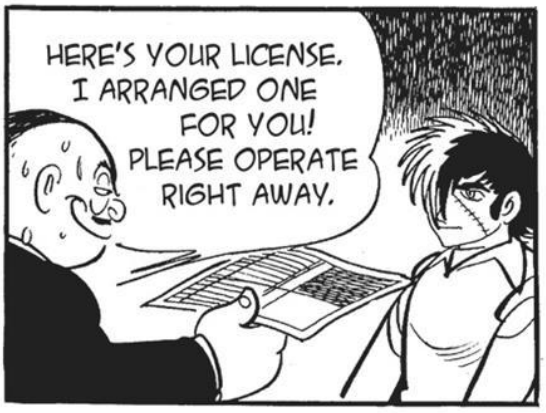
SOMEBODY! ANYBODY!! SAVE MY SON!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
NO

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT NO ONE CAN DO IT
BUT YOU.

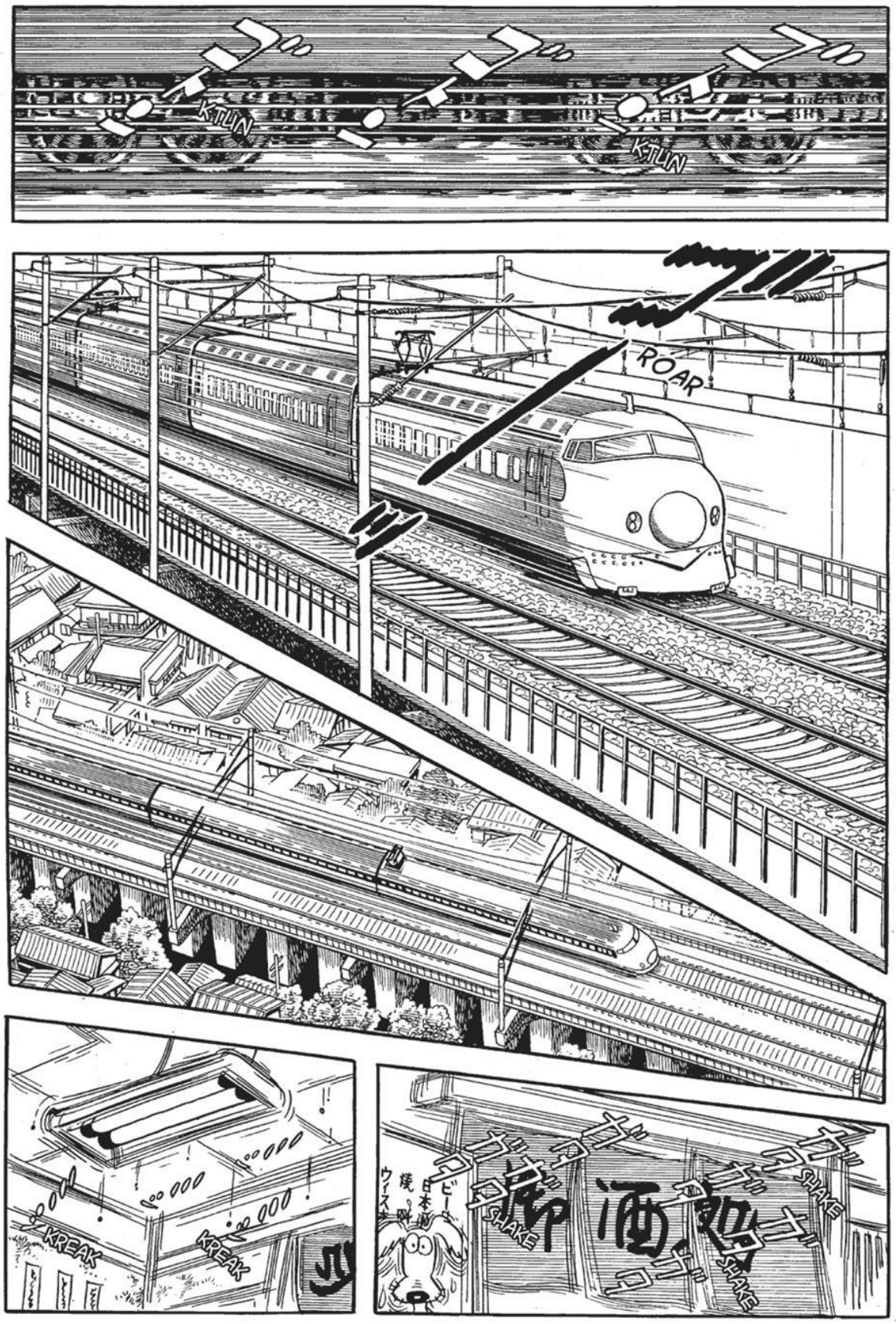
DOCTOR, THE JMA CHAIRMAN.


P-PLEASE! WON'T YOU SAVE MY SON? PLEASE...

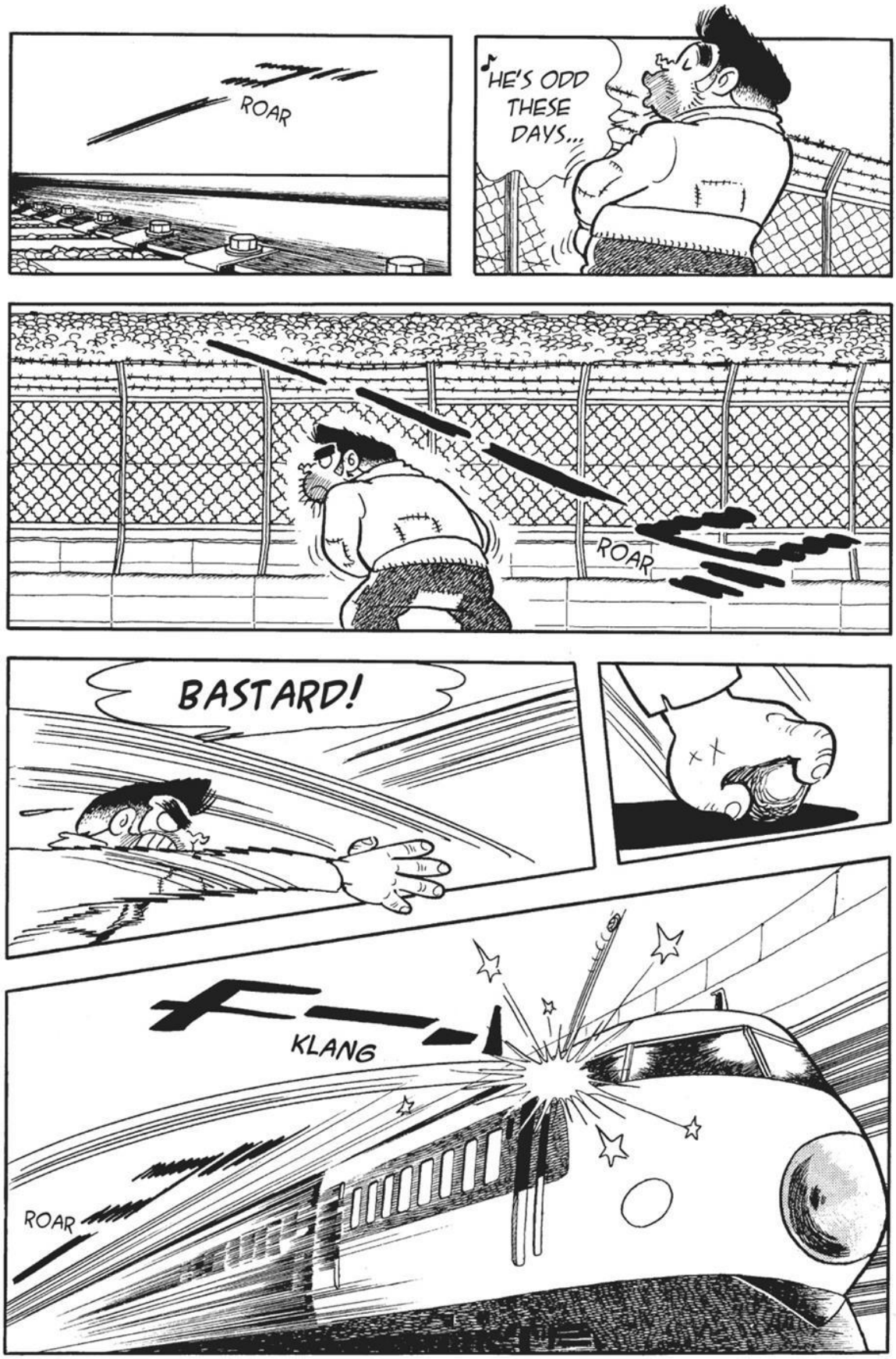

HERE'S YOUR LICENSE. I ARRANGED ONE FOR YOU! PLEASE OPERATE RIGHT AWAY.

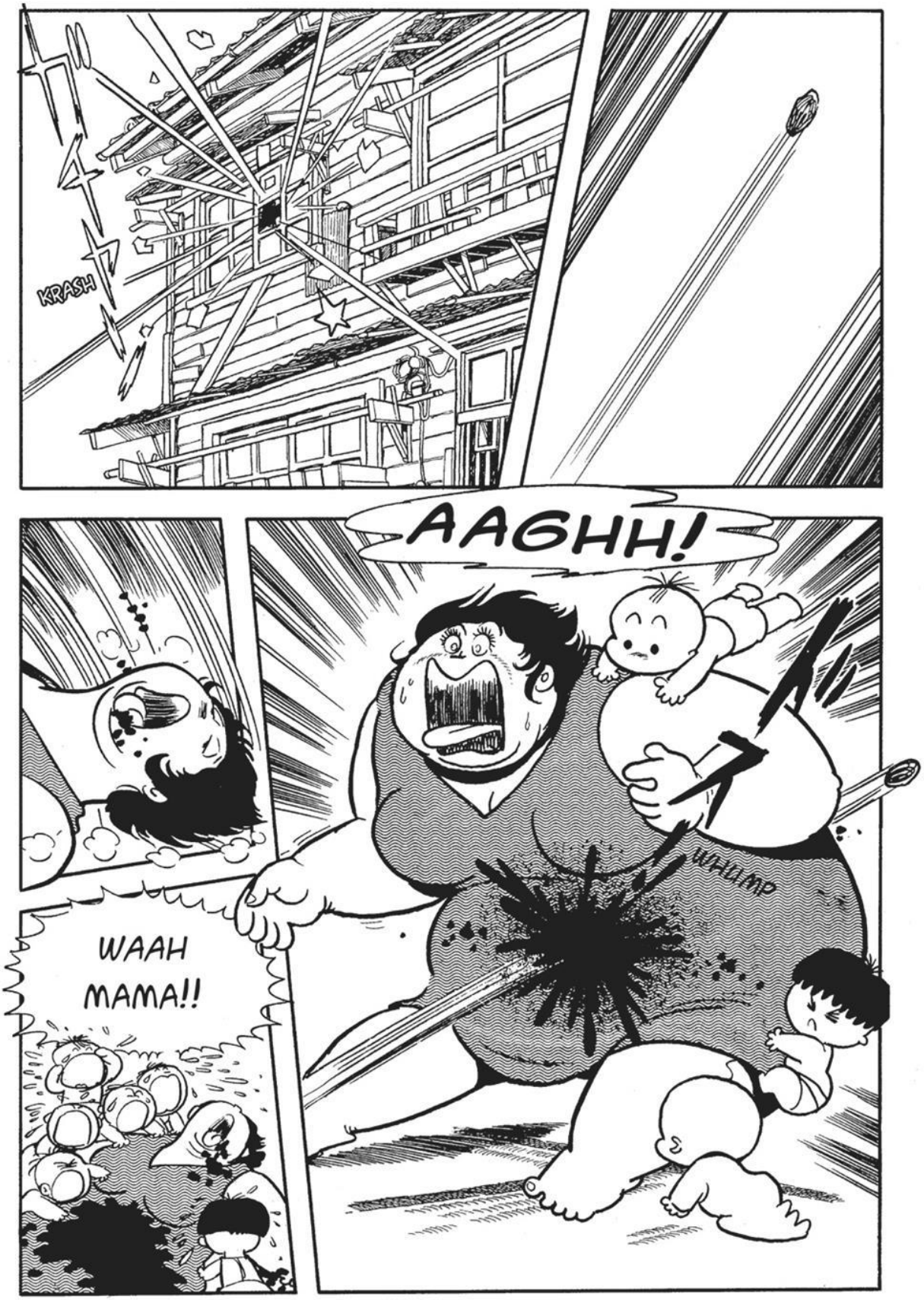
ドッ
ドッ
FUCKER

VIBRATION


KTUN
KTUN
ROAR
KREAK
KREAK
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
日本酒
ビール
焼酎
ウィスキー

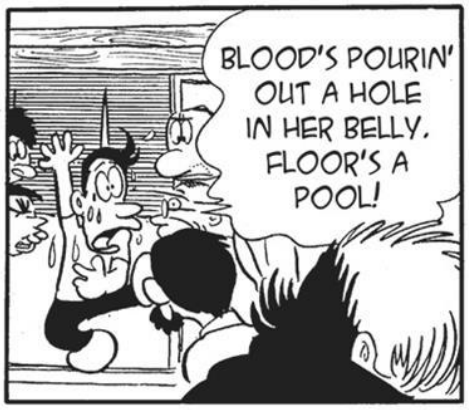
NOTE: THE JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS WERE PRIVATIZED IN 1987 TO BECOME THE JR GROUP.


ROAR
♪HE'S ODD THESE DAYS...
ROAR
BASTARD!
KLANG
ROAR


KRASH
AAGHH!
WHOMP
WAAH MAMA!!

HE WAS HERE DRINKING TILL JUST NOW, BUT HE LEFT.
?!
HIS WIFE'S HURT! REAL BAD!
MY GOSH! WHERE'S HACHI?

SOMEONE SAW A STONE COME FLYIN' FROM THE TRAIN.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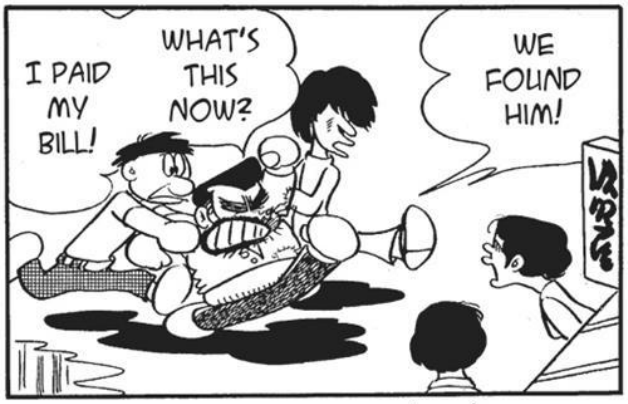
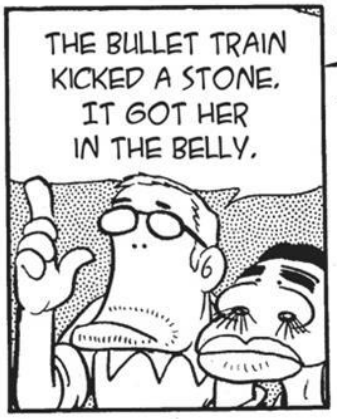
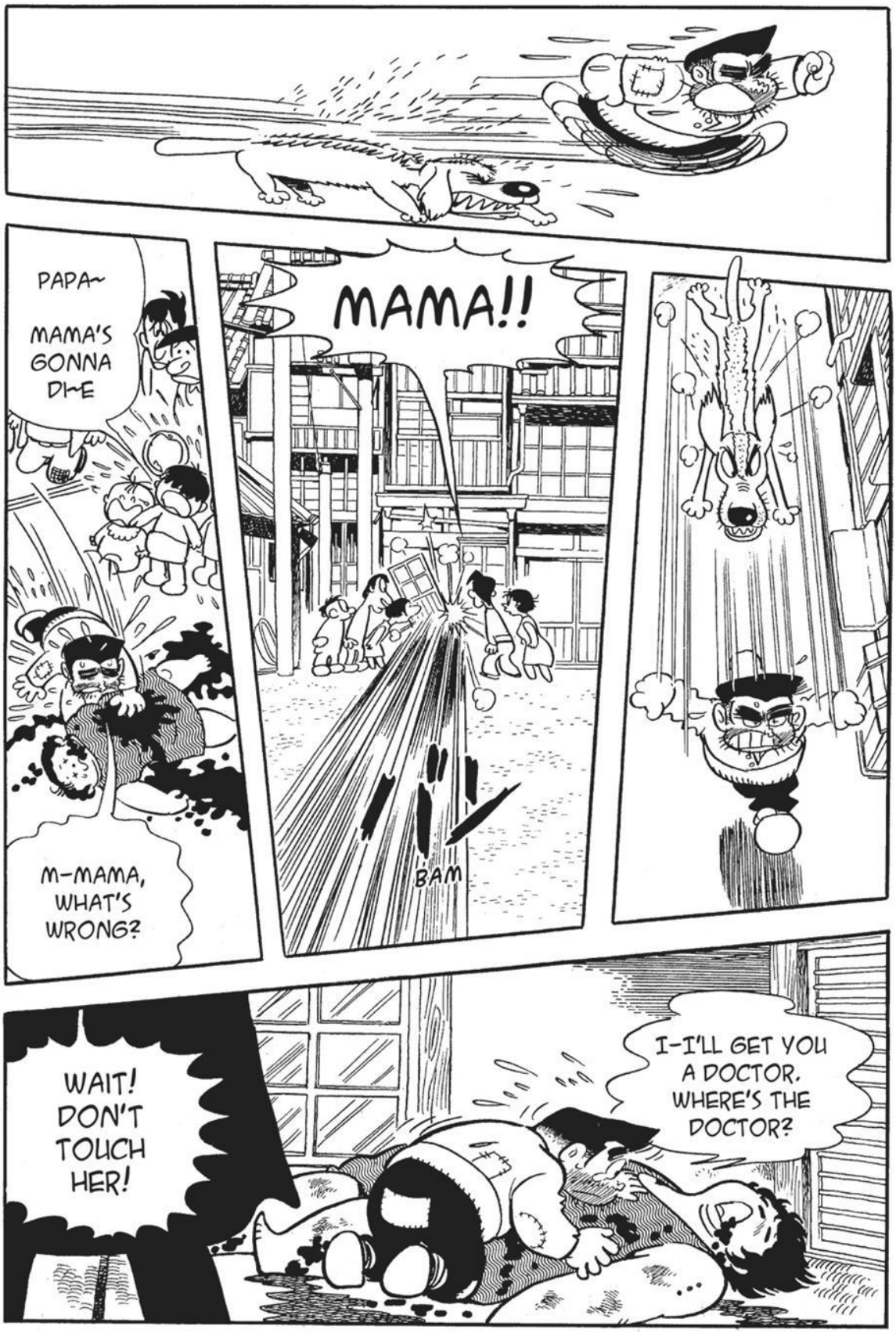
GO SEE HER, YOU SOT!
YOUR WIFE'S DYING.


I PAID MY BILL!
WHAT'S THIS NOW?
WE FOUND HIM!

WHOA!!

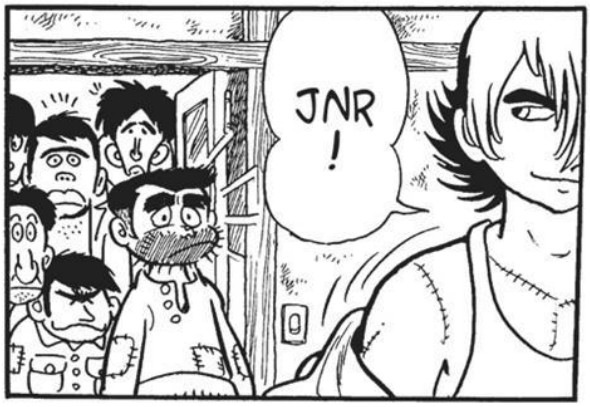

THE BULLET TRAIN KICKED A STONE. IT GOT HER IN THE BELLY.

WHA-T?

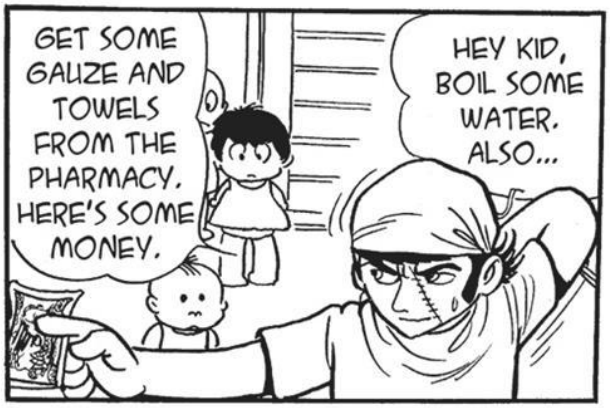

PAPA~
MAMA'S GONNA DIE
M-MAMA, WHAT'S WRONG?
MAMA!!
BAM
WAIT! DON'T TOUCH HER!
I-I'LL GET YOU A DOCTOR. WHERE'S THE DOCTOR?

YES.
DID I SEE YA AT THE PUB? YOU A DOCTOR? FOR REAL?
IF YOU MOVE HER NOW, SHE'LL BLEED EVEN MORE.
I'LL GIVE FIRST AID TO STOP THE BLEEDING. SURGERY CAN COME LATER.
DOCTOR'S HERE! YA HEAR ME?
YOU'RE OUR SAVIOR.
...
I'VE HEARD TELL OF THOSE SCARS OF HIS.
YEAH, HE MUST BE BLACK SOMETHING... KNAVE OF A DOCTOR.
HEY, ISN'T HE ...
ER, DOCTOR, THANK YOU DEARLY BUT NO SURGERY PLEASE.
10 MILLION?
FORGET IT, HACHI. HE'LL BILL YOU UPWARDS OF TEN MILLION!

WHATEVER! YOU'RE NOT WANTED HERE.
YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE? SHE'LL DIE IF I DON'T TREAT HER!
WH AT
LOOK 'ERE, DOC, I'M TELLING YA TO LEAVE!
THAT DOES IT!
YOU IDIOT!
I WON'T EVEN PAY YA 100 YEN. THAT CLEAR?
I'M NOT PAYIN' YA 10 MILLION YEN!
I'LL SAY THIS ONE LAST TIME. IF SHE'S NOT TREATED NOW, SHE'LL DIE!!


JNR !

FOR THAT, I'LL LOOK TO...
YOU THINK I EVEN EXPECT PAYMENT FROM A SOT LIKE YOU?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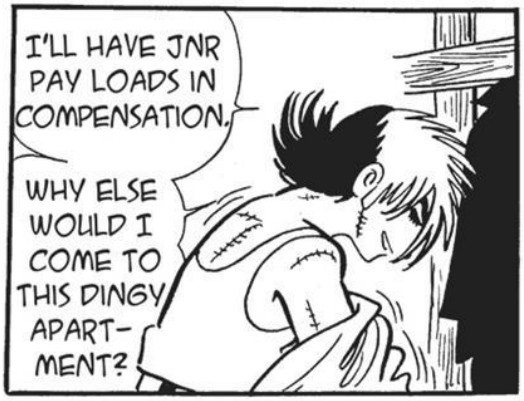
HEY KID, BOIL SOME WATER. ALSO...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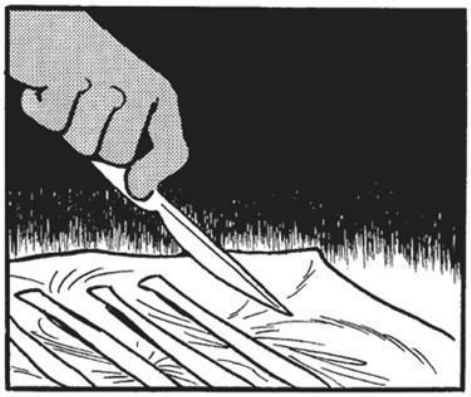
WHY ELSE WOULD I COME TO THIS DINGY APART-MENT?



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N-N-NO I'M NOT! WH-WHAT'S A LITTLE BLOOD TO ME?
BLEEDING'S PRETTY SERIOUS. ARE YOU SHAKING?
GLUP
GLUP
A SEVERED MAJOR ARTERY, PLUS INTESTINAL RUPTURE! HER CHANCES ARE FIFTY-FIFTY.
GLUP
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AH, THIS GUY HERE.
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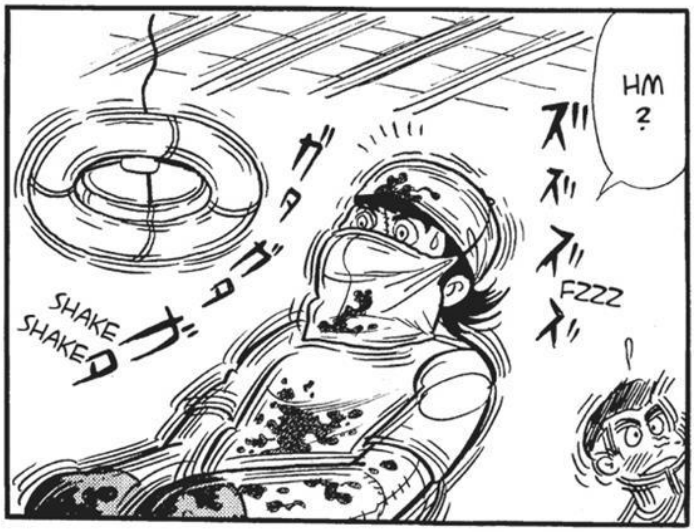
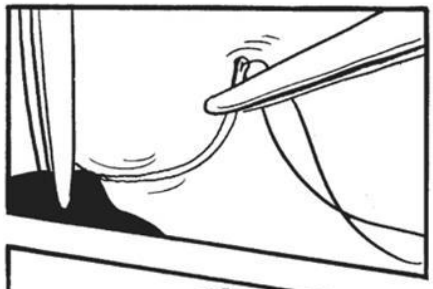
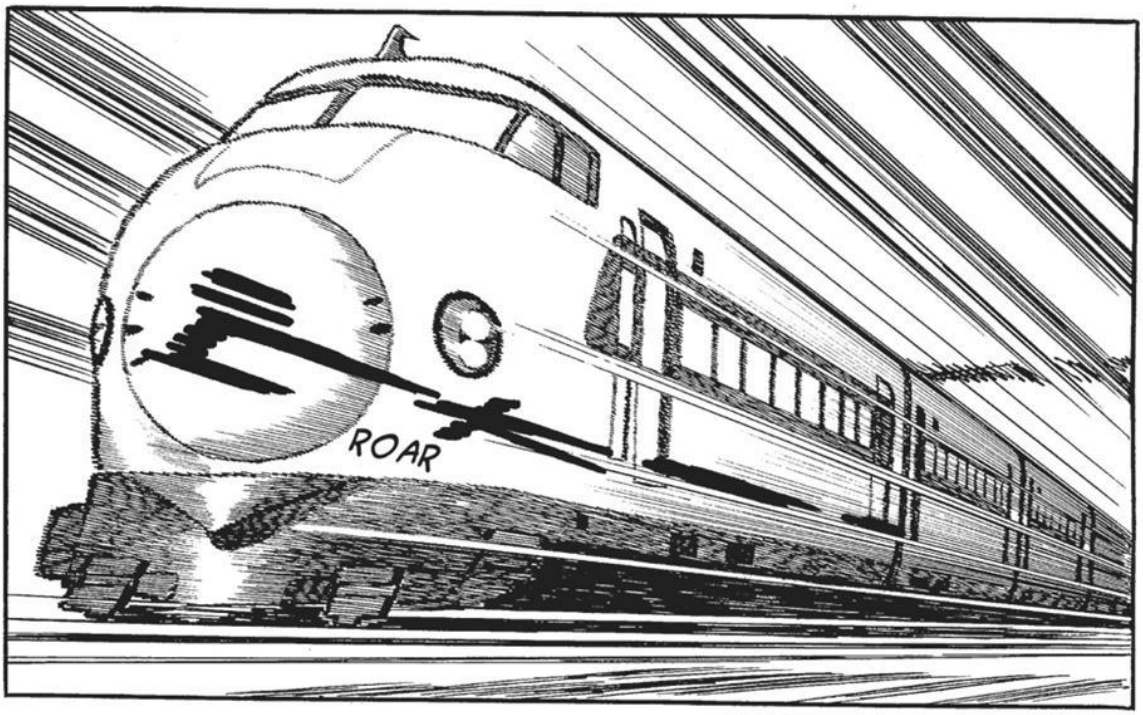
FIRST, TIE OFF THE ARTERY WITH A RUBBER TUBE TO STOP THE BLEEDING...


HM ?
ズズズズ
FZZZ
ガタガタ
SHAKE SHAKE

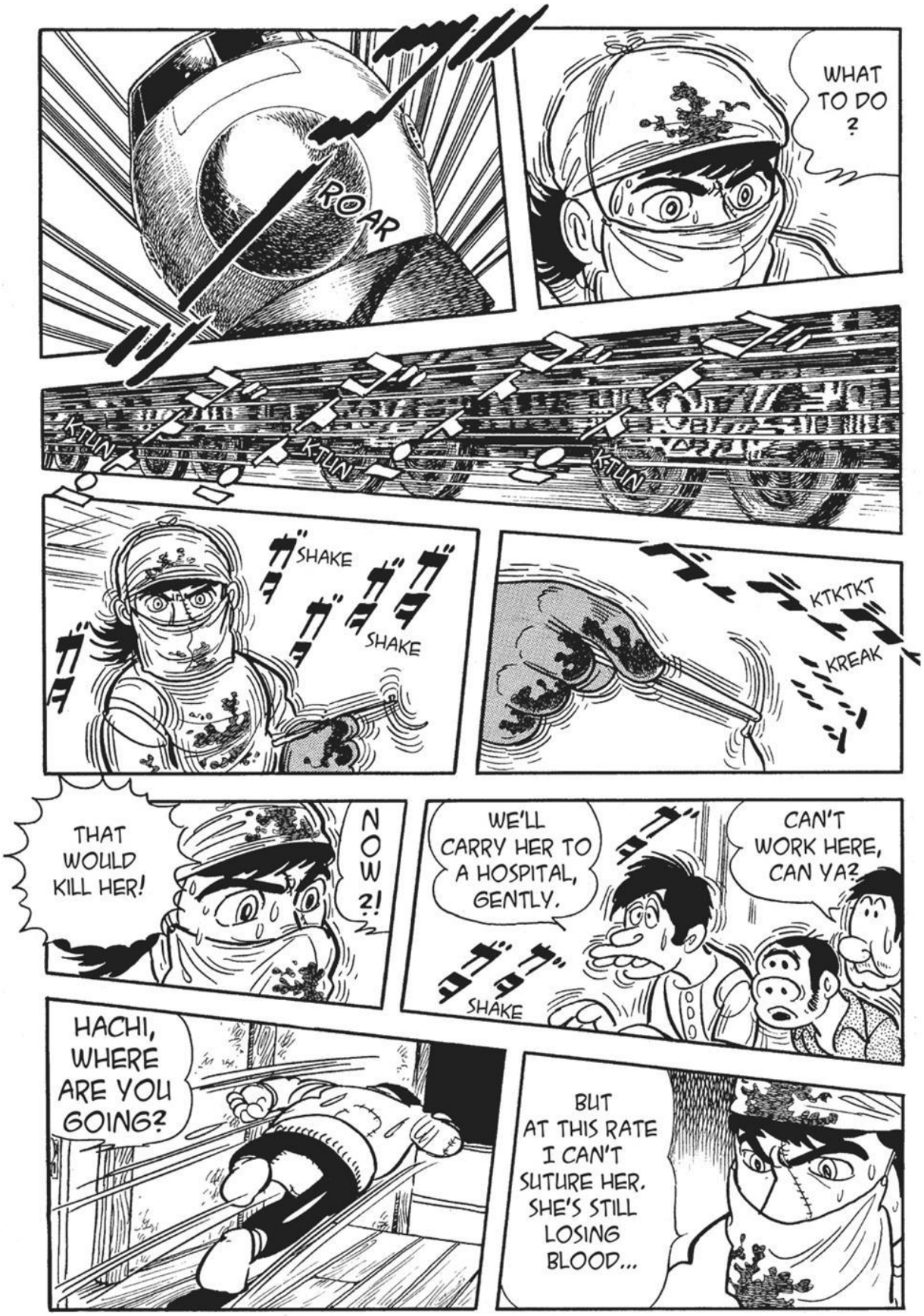



ROAR

UH HUH ...
IS IT ALWAYS THIS BAD?

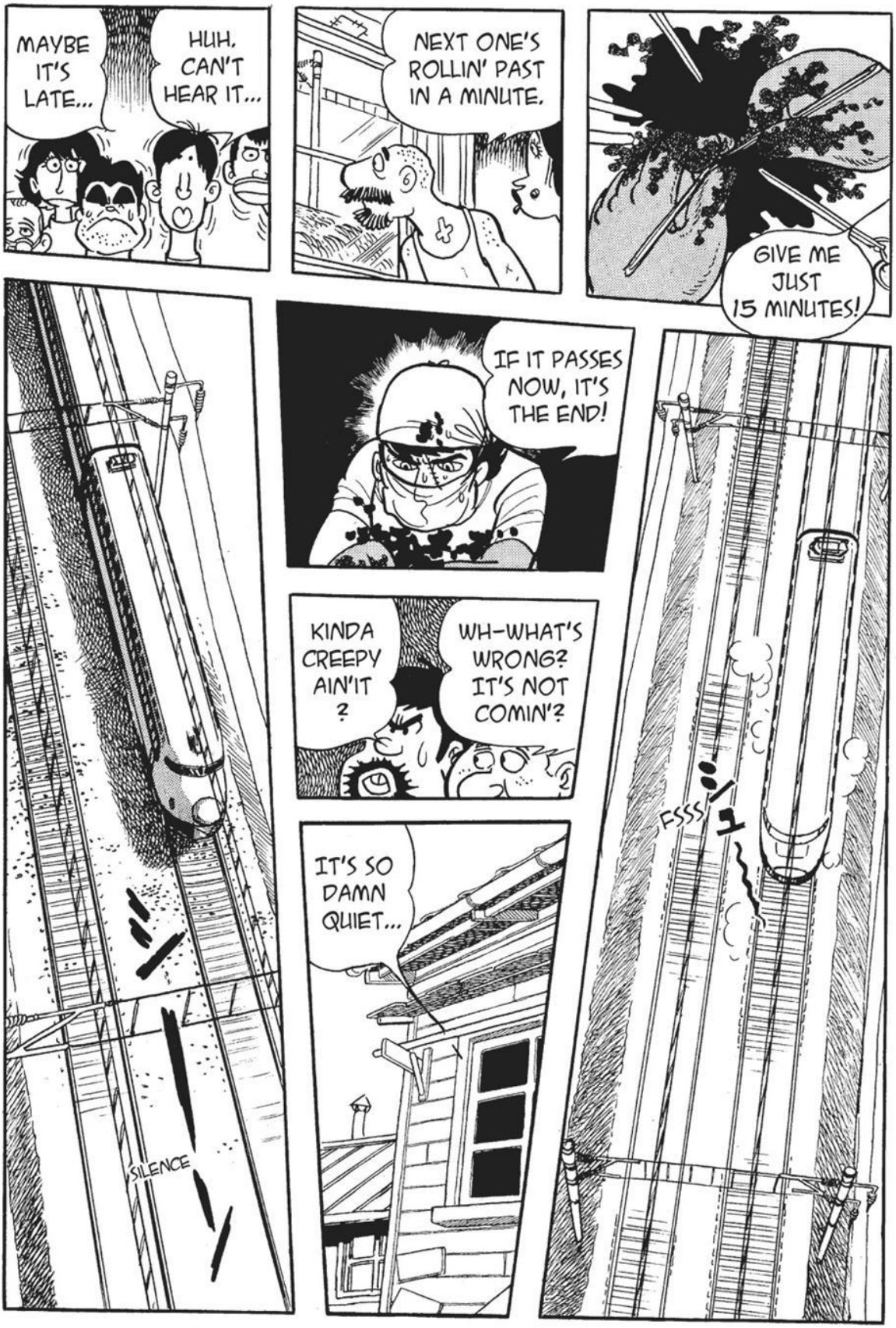
KREAK
KREAK

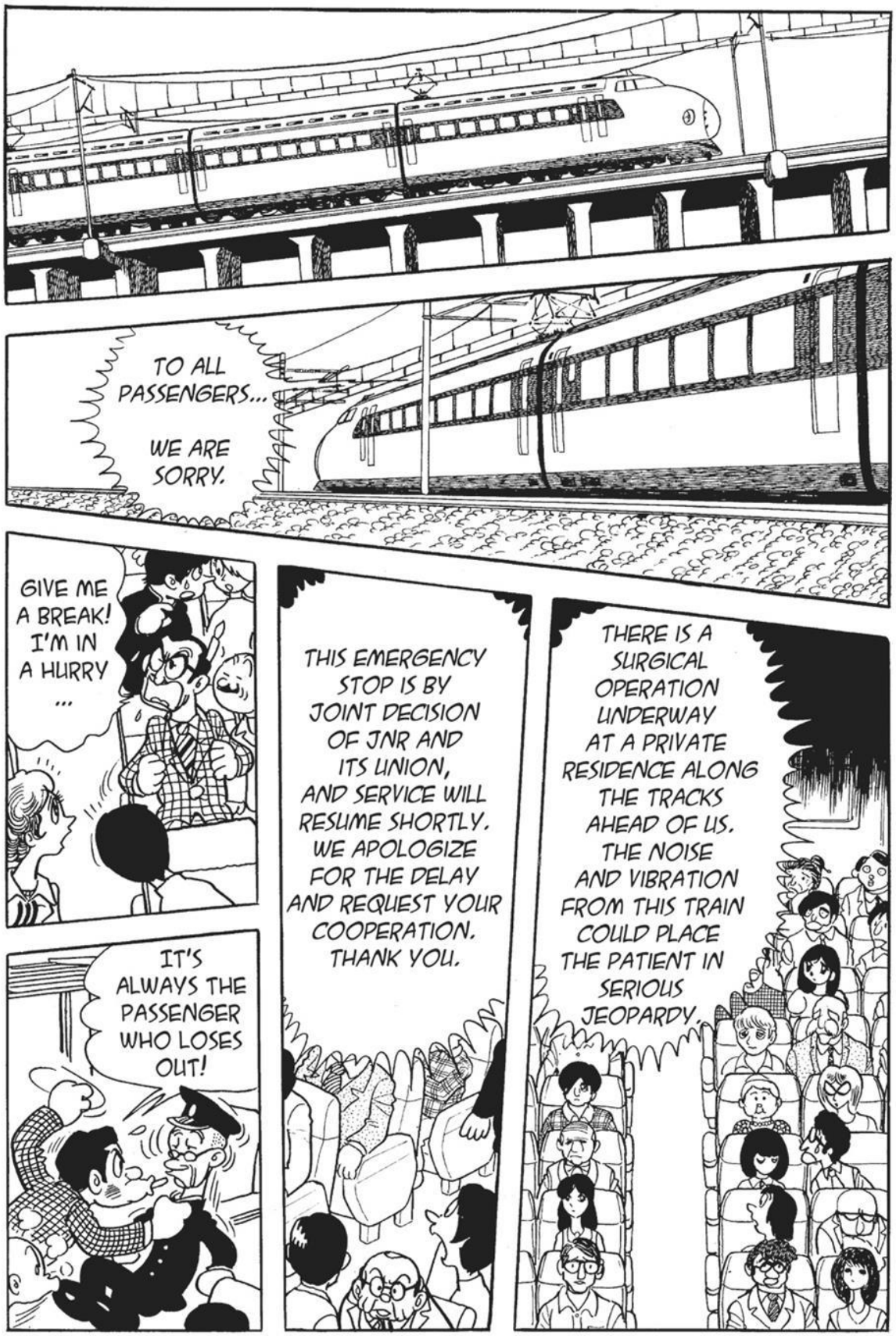
SILENCE
I CAN'T OPERATE LIKE THIS!
I'M SUTURING A MAJOR ARTERY. ONE JOLT AND WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE!
AGAIN ?!
N-NO... NOT NOW! DAMMIT, NO!!
KREAK
THERE'S ONE EVERY THREE MINUTES AROUND THIS TIME.
ROAR
IF IT KEEPS ON SHAKING LIKE THIS, I CAN'T GET TO IT!


ROAR
WHAT TO DO ?
K-TUN
K-TUN
K-TUN
SHAKE
SHAKE
KTKTKT
KREAK
THAT WOULD KILL HER!
NOW ?!
WE'LL CARRY HER TO A HOSPITAL, GENTLY.
SHAKE
CAN'T WORK HERE, CAN YA?
HACHI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BUT AT THIS RATE I CAN'T SUTURE HER. SHE'S STILL LOSING BLOOD...

THAT HACHI, HE'S STILL DRUNK!
YOU THINK HE'D TALK TO YOU, BOZO ?
SAY WHAT ?!
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, WHAT'D YA THINK? I'M CALLING THE PREZ OF JNR!
TELL DOC TO HANG IN THERE.
IF HE DOESN'T, HELL I'M CALLING THE PRIME MINISTER.
YOU MEAN LIKE BAND AID? I'M TALKIN' LIFE AND DEATH!
AID?
HELLO? I'M HIS AIDE.
YUP, THE PRESIDENT. THE BIG BOSS OF JNR !
UM, UM, HELLO? G-GIVE ME THE BOSS...

SHE'S IN SURGERY!!
THE DOC CAN'T GO ON CUZ OF THE TRAIN!
JUST... PLEASE DON'T KILL MY WIFE...
UM
HE'S IN A MEETING RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU CAN TALK TO ME, SIR.
"SOB"
"SNIFF"
"SNIFF"
PLEASE, IT'S FOR THE MAMA... YOU GOTTA HELP US... "WEEP"
HEAR ME OUT! EVERY TIME YOUR BULLET TRAIN PASSES, IT SHAKES SO BAD HE HAS TO STOP!
MY WIFE OF 20 YEARS...
HOW'D IT GO ?
DUNNO
HOW'S THE SURGERY GOING?
DOC'S TRYIN' BUT THERE'LL BE ANOTHER ONE SOON.
SOUNDED LIKE SOME HIGHER-UP, SO I TOLD HIM LIKE IT WAS AND ASKED FOR HELP.
JUST THAT? WON'T DO NUTHIN.

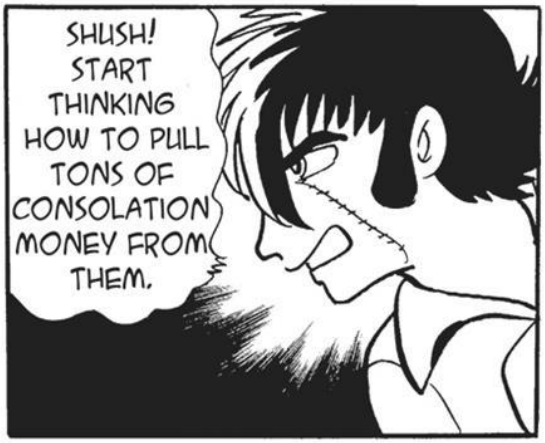

MAYBE IT'S LATE...
HUH. CAN'T HEAR IT...
NEXT ONE'S ROLLIN' PAST IN A MINUTE.
GIVE ME JUST 15 MINUTES!
IF IT PASSES NOW, IT'S THE END!
KINDA CREEPY AIN'IT ?
WH-WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S NOT COMIN'?
IT'S SO DAMN QUIET...
SILENCE
FSSS


TO ALL PASSENGERS... WE ARE SORRY.
GIVE ME A BREAK! I'M IN A HURRY ...
IT'S ALWAYS THE PASSENGER WHO LOSES OUT!
THIS EMERGENCY STOP IS BY JOINT DECISION OF JNR AND ITS UNION, AND SERVICE WILL RESUME SHORTLY. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY AND REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION. THANK YOU.
THERE IS A SURGICAL OPERATION UNDERWAY AT A PRIVATE RESIDENCE ALONG THE TRACKS AHEAD OF US. THE NOISE AND VIBRATION FROM THIS TRAIN COULD PLACE THE PATIENT IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY.

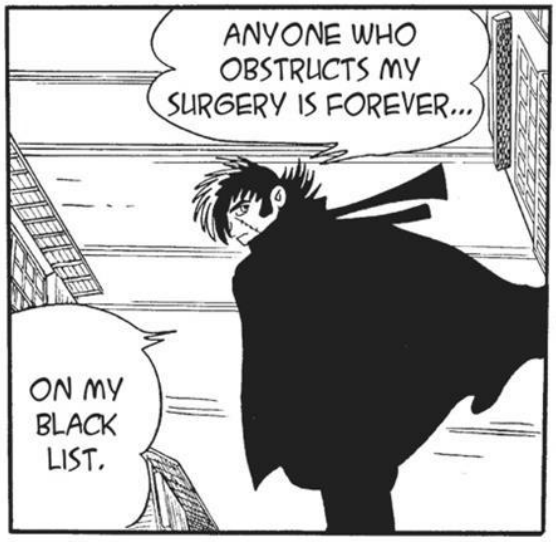
SOMEONE CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE RIGHT NOW!
HEH... HEHEH. THIS CAN'T BE REAL. I MUST BE DREAMIN' ...

AT LEAST IT'S NOT A STRIKE!

I'VE MADE IT SAFE TO MOVE HER TO A HOSPITAL.
SHE NEEDS A TRANSFUSION.
DOC, IS SHE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT ?

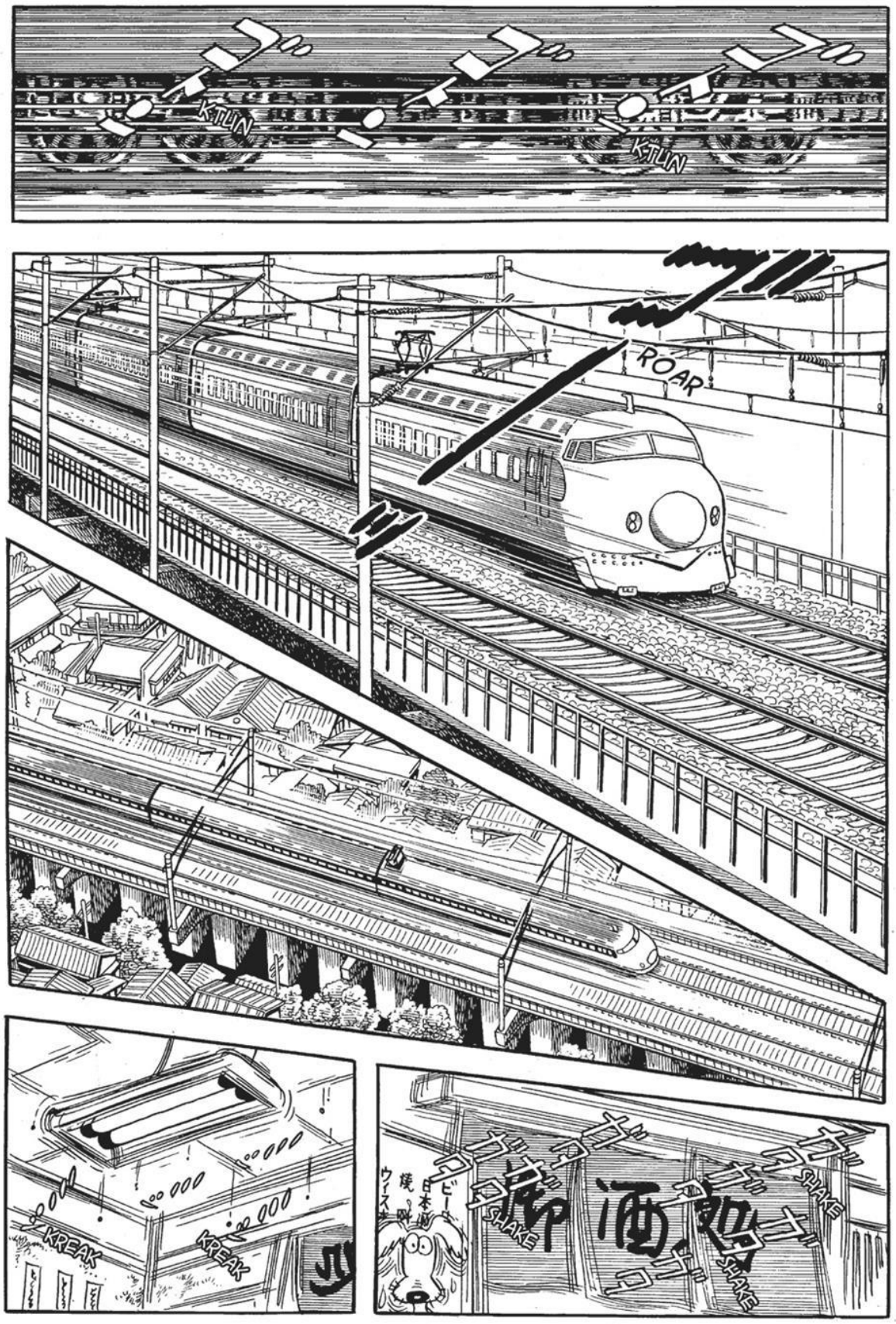

SHUSH! START THINKING HOW TO PULL TONS OF CONSOLATION MONEY FROM THEM.

WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS HAD HEART?


ANYONE WHO OBSTRUCTS MY SURGERY IS FOREVER...
ON MY BLACK LIST.

DO IT IF IT TAKES YOU 100 YEARS.
IF I CAN'T?

VIBRATION


KTUN
KTUN
ROAR
KREAK
KREAK
SHAKE
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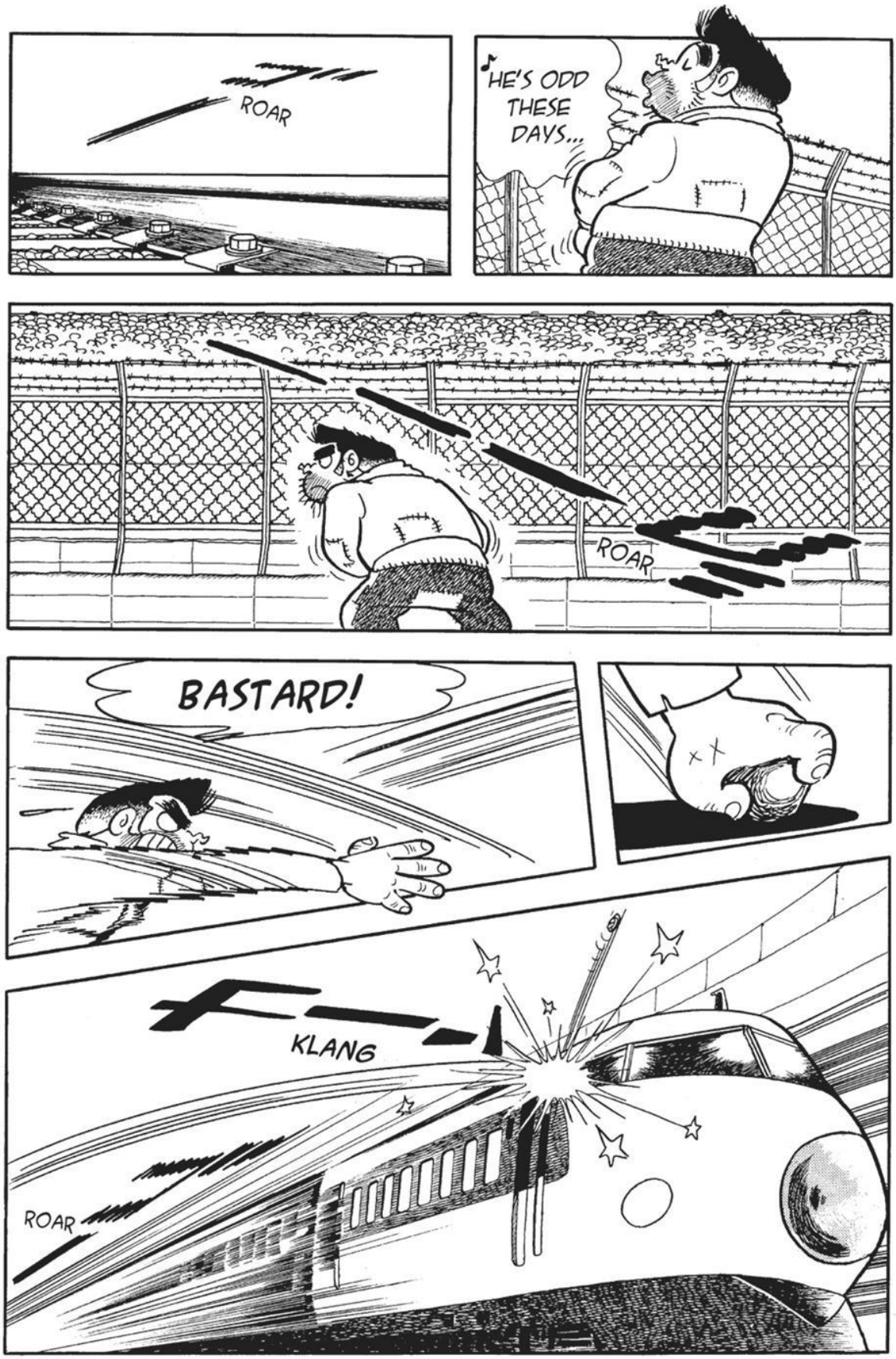
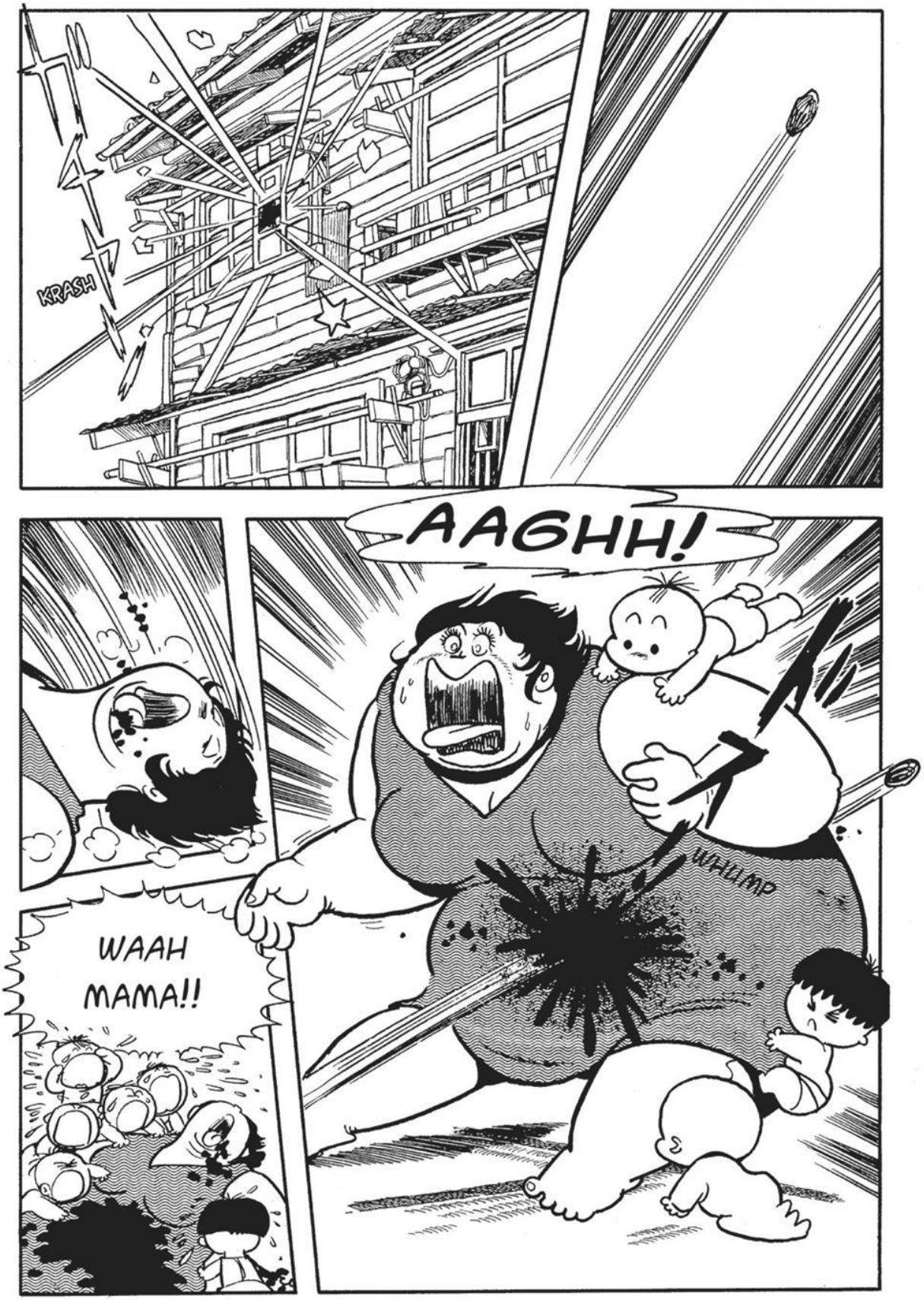
日本酒
ビール
焼酎
ウィスキー

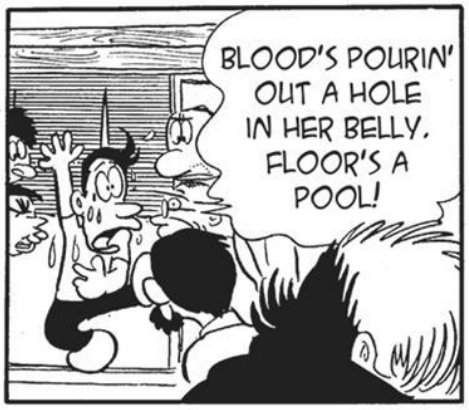
NOTE: THE JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS WERE PRIVATIZED IN 1987 TO BECOME THE JR GROUP.


ROAR
♪HE'S ODD THESE DAYS...
ROAR
BASTARD!
KLANG
ROAR


KRASH
AAGHH!
WHOMP
WAAH MAMA!!

HE WAS HERE DRINKING TILL JUST NOW, BUT HE LEFT.
?!
HIS WIFE'S HURT! REAL BAD!
MY GOSH! WHERE'S HACHI?

SOMEONE SAW A STONE COME FLYIN' FROM THE TRAIN.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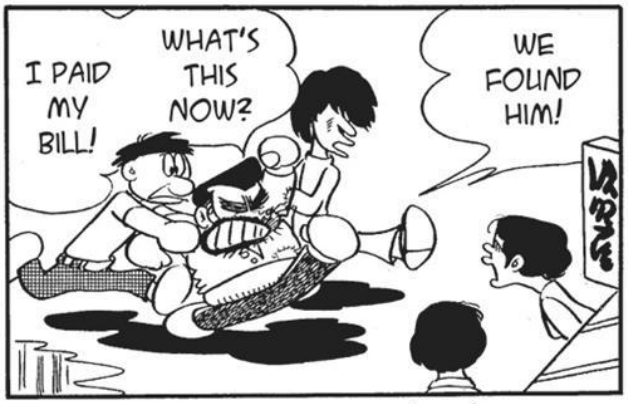
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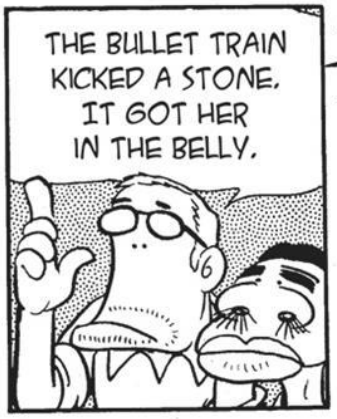
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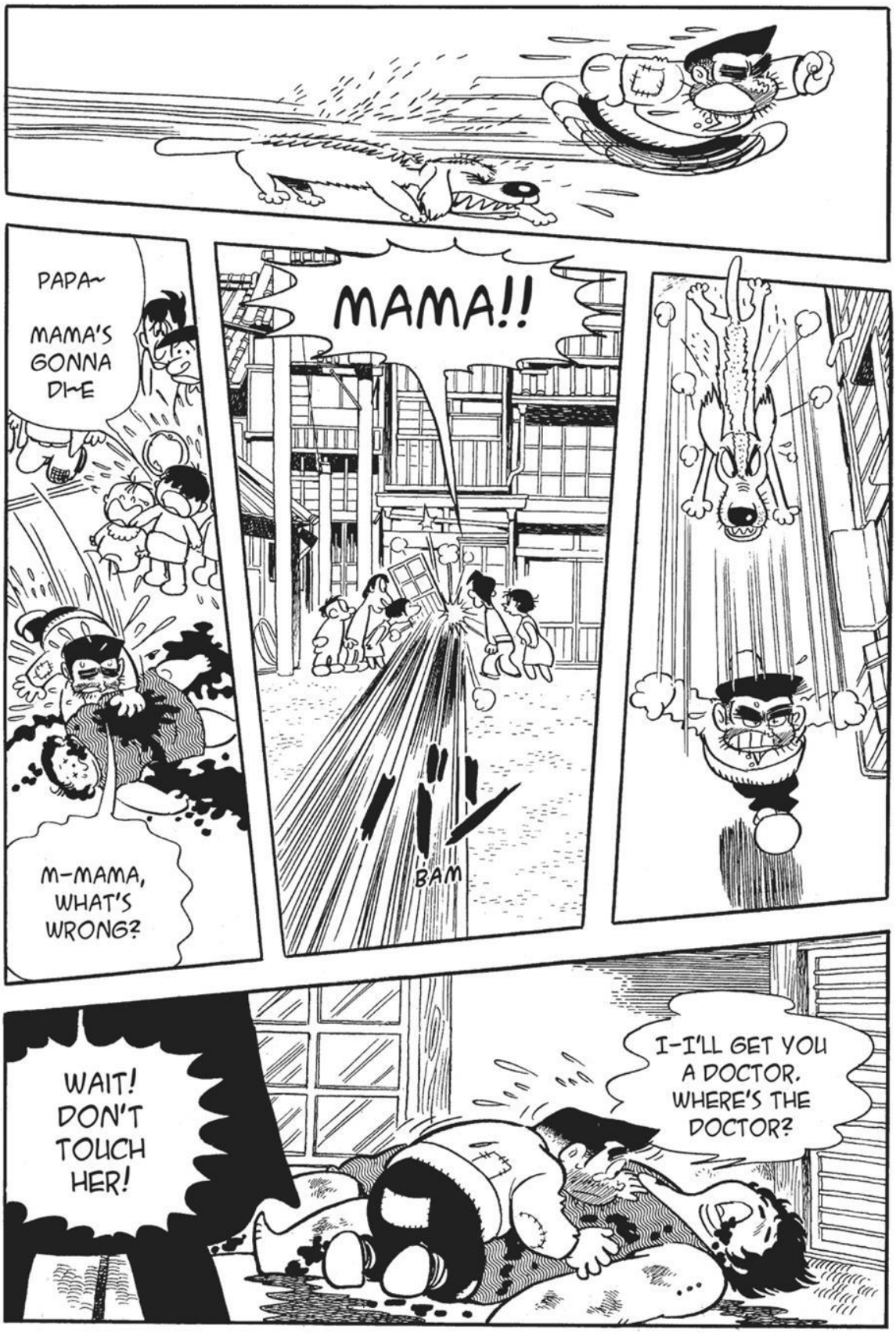
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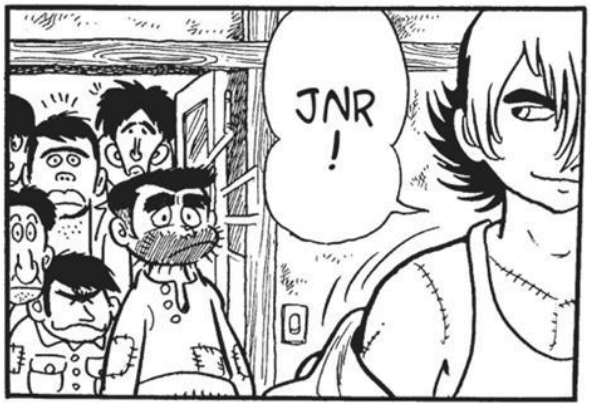
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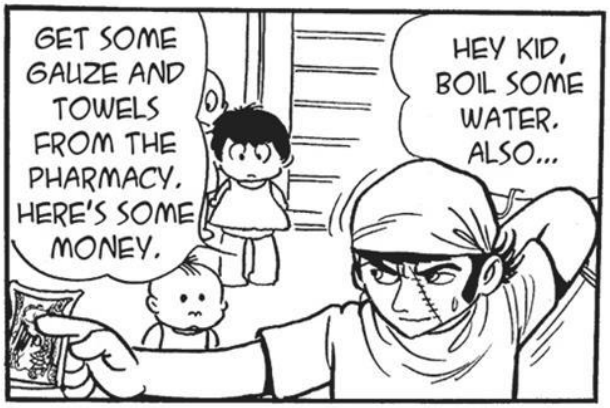
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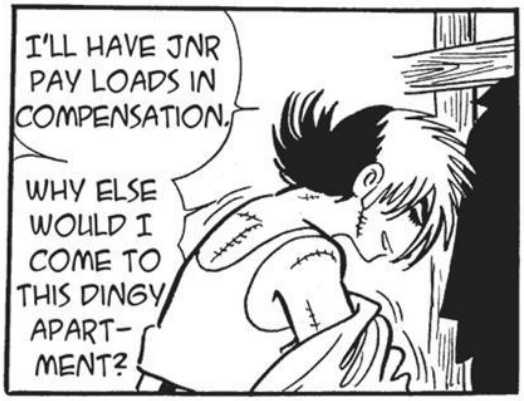
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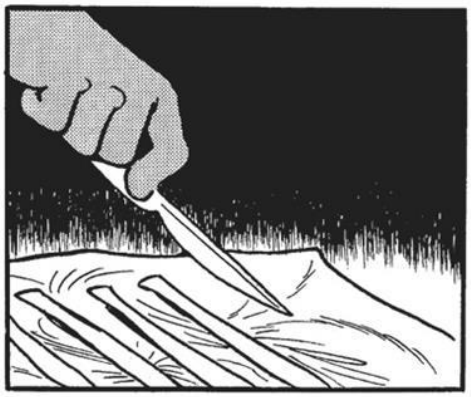

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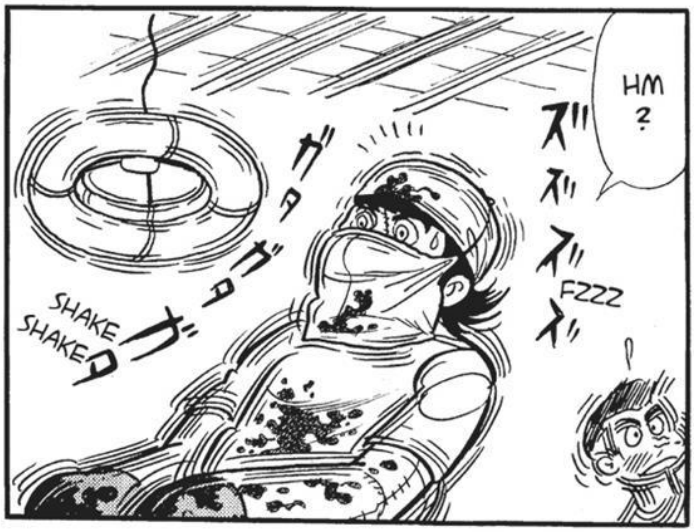
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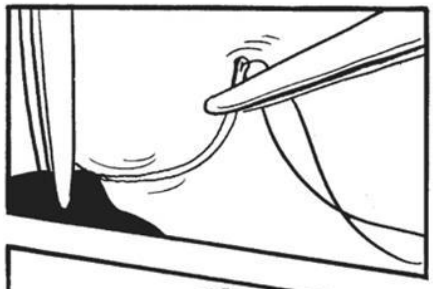

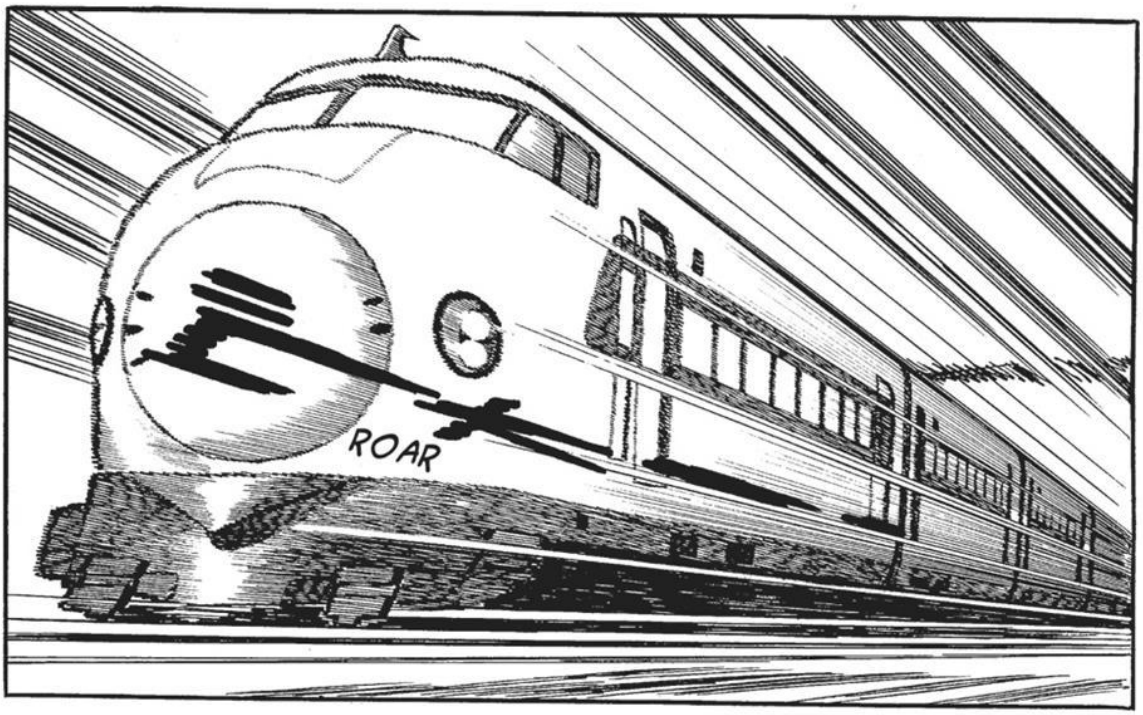
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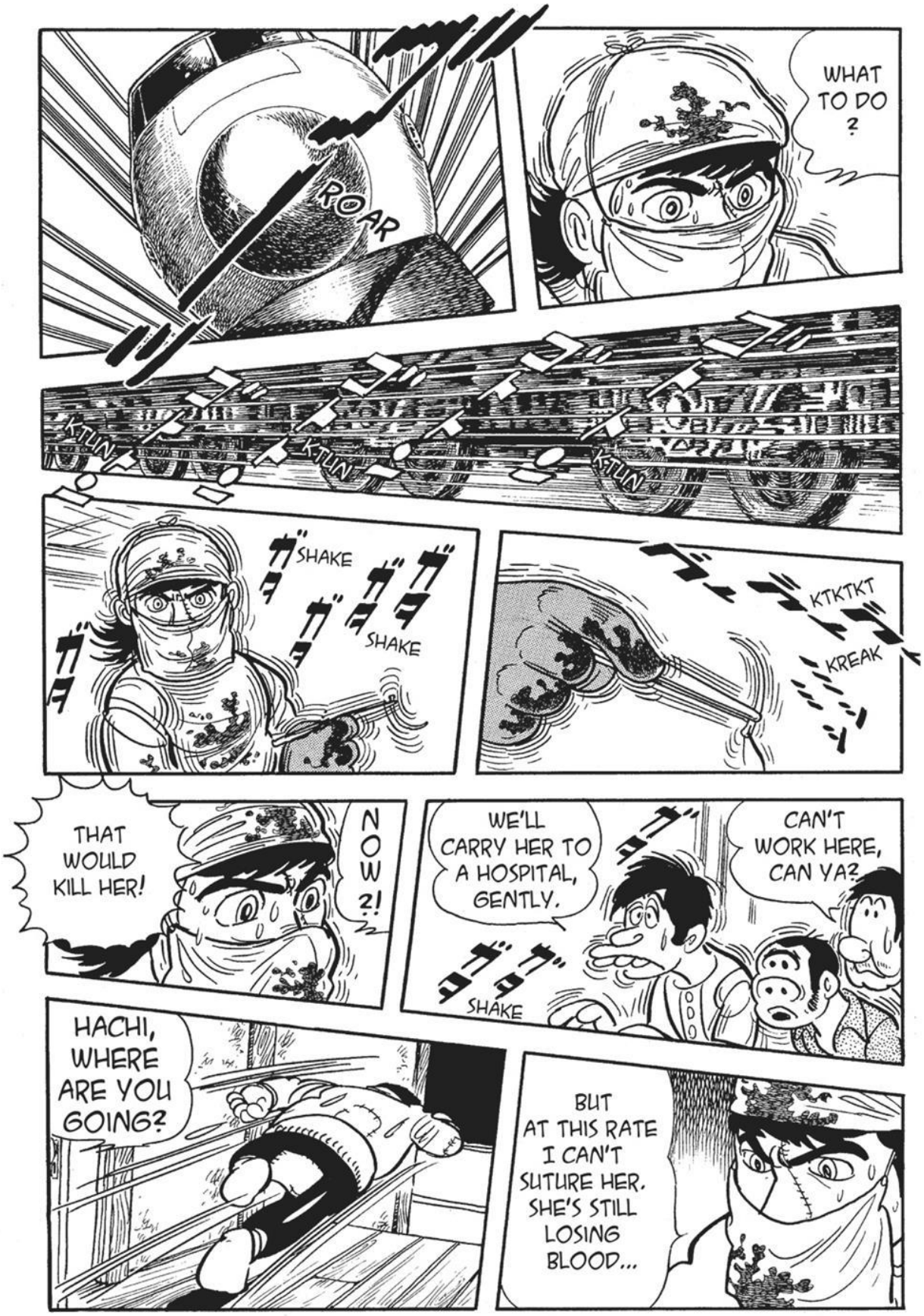
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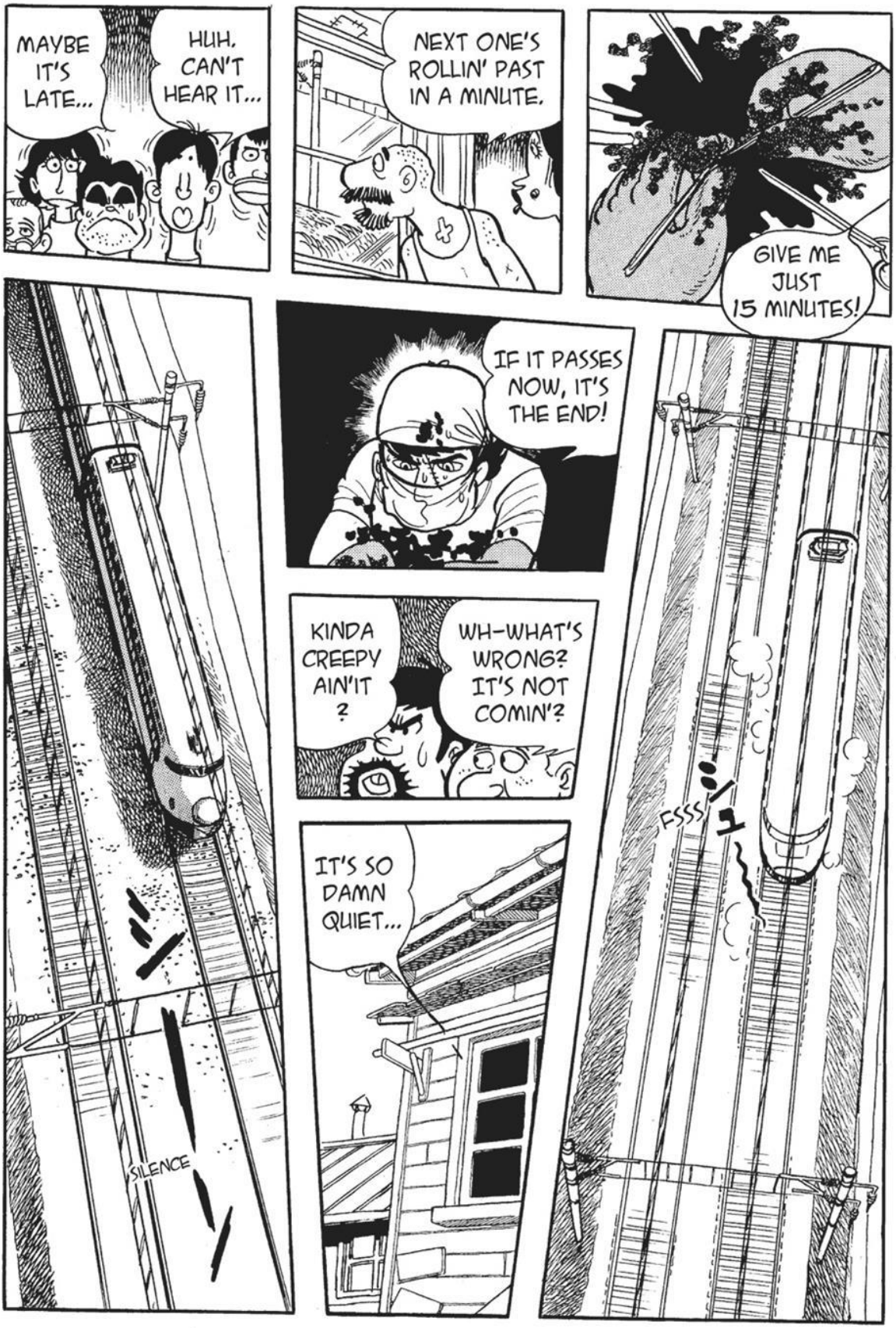
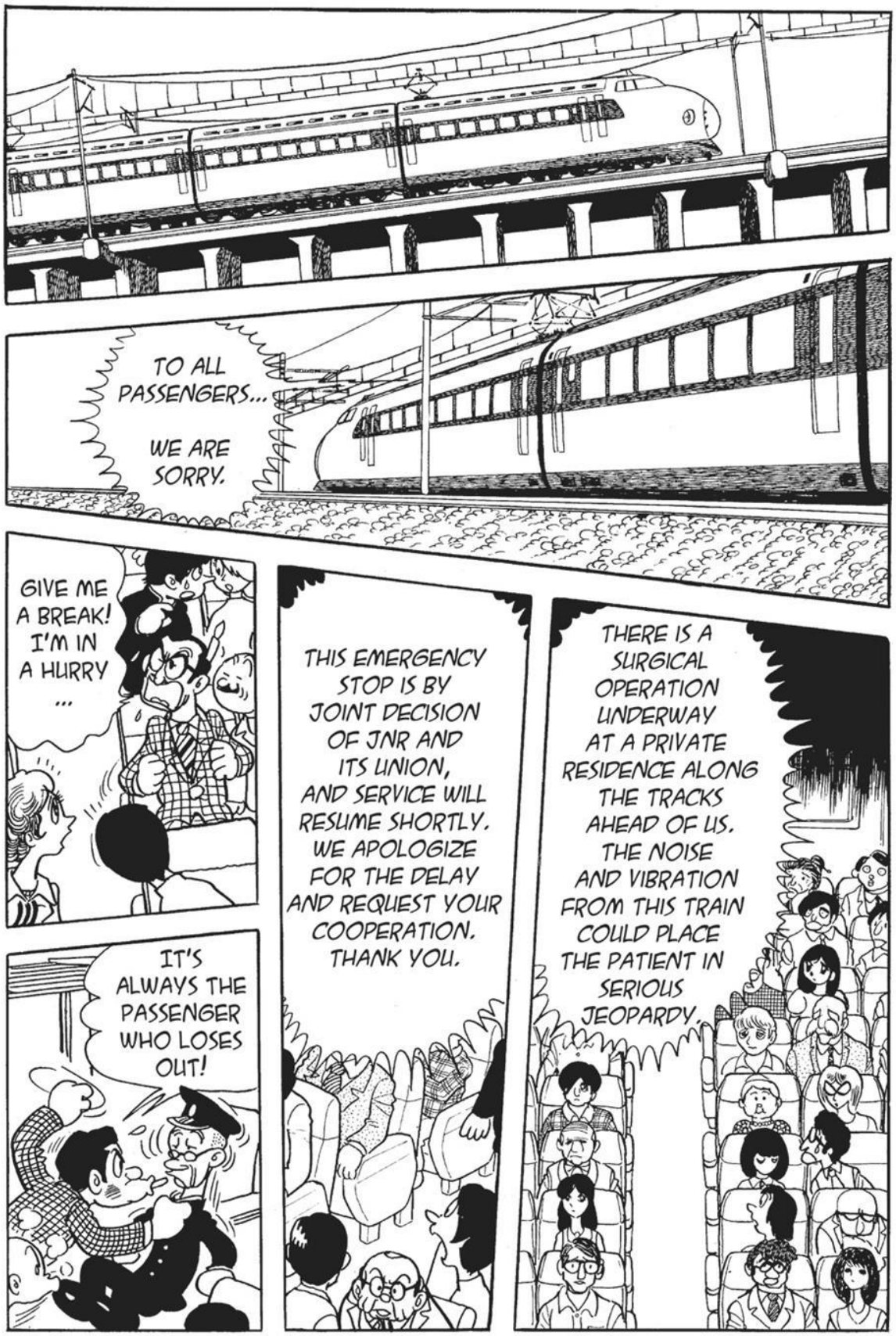
"SNIFF"
"SNIFF"
PLEASE, IT'S FOR THE MAMA... YOU GOTTA HELP US... "WEEP"
HEAR ME OUT! EVERY TIME YOUR BULLET TRAIN PASSES, IT SHAKES SO BAD HE HAS TO STOP!
MY WIFE OF 20 YEARS...
HOW'D IT GO ?
DUNNO
HOW'S THE SURGERY GOING?
DOC'S TRYIN' BUT THERE'LL BE ANOTHER ONE SOON.
SOUNDED LIKE SOME HIGHER-UP, SO I TOLD HIM LIKE IT WAS AND ASKED FOR HELP.
JUST THAT? WON'T DO NUTHIN.

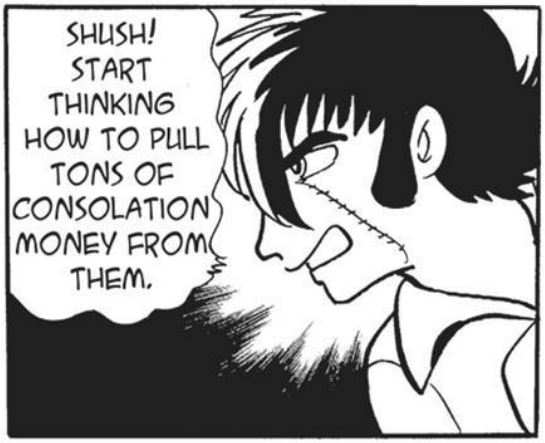

MAYBE IT'S LATE...
HUH. CAN'T HEAR IT...
NEXT ONE'S ROLLIN' PAST IN A MINUTE.
GIVE ME JUST 15 MINUTES!
IF IT PASSES NOW, IT'S THE END!
KINDA CREEPY AIN'IT ?
WH-WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S NOT COMIN'?
IT'S SO DAMN QUIET...
SILENCE
FSSS


TO ALL PASSENGERS... WE ARE SORRY.
GIVE ME A BREAK! I'M IN A HURRY ...
IT'S ALWAYS THE PASSENGER WHO LOSES OUT!
THIS EMERGENCY STOP IS BY JOINT DECISION OF JNR AND ITS UNION, AND SERVICE WILL RESUME SHORTLY. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY AND REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION. THANK YOU.
THERE IS A SURGICAL OPERATION UNDERWAY AT A PRIVATE RESIDENCE ALONG THE TRACKS AHEAD OF US. THE NOISE AND VIBRATION FROM THIS TRAIN COULD PLACE THE PATIENT IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY.

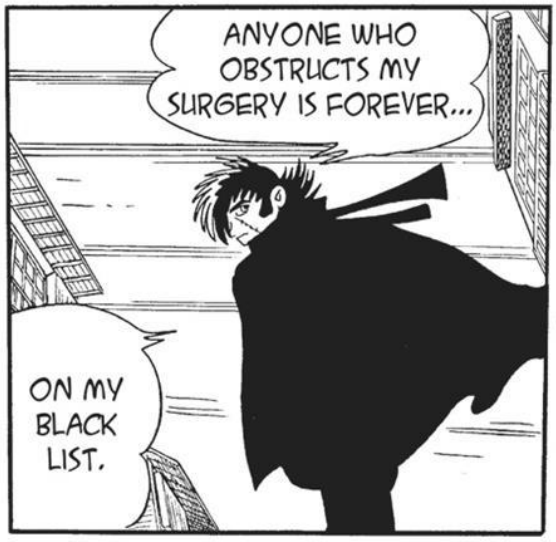
SOMEONE CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE RIGHT NOW!
HEH... HEHEH. THIS CAN'T BE REAL. I MUST BE DREAMIN' ...

AT LEAST IT'S NOT A STRIKE!

I'VE MADE IT SAFE TO MOVE HER TO A HOSPITAL.
SHE NEEDS A TRANSFUSION.
DOC, IS SHE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT ?

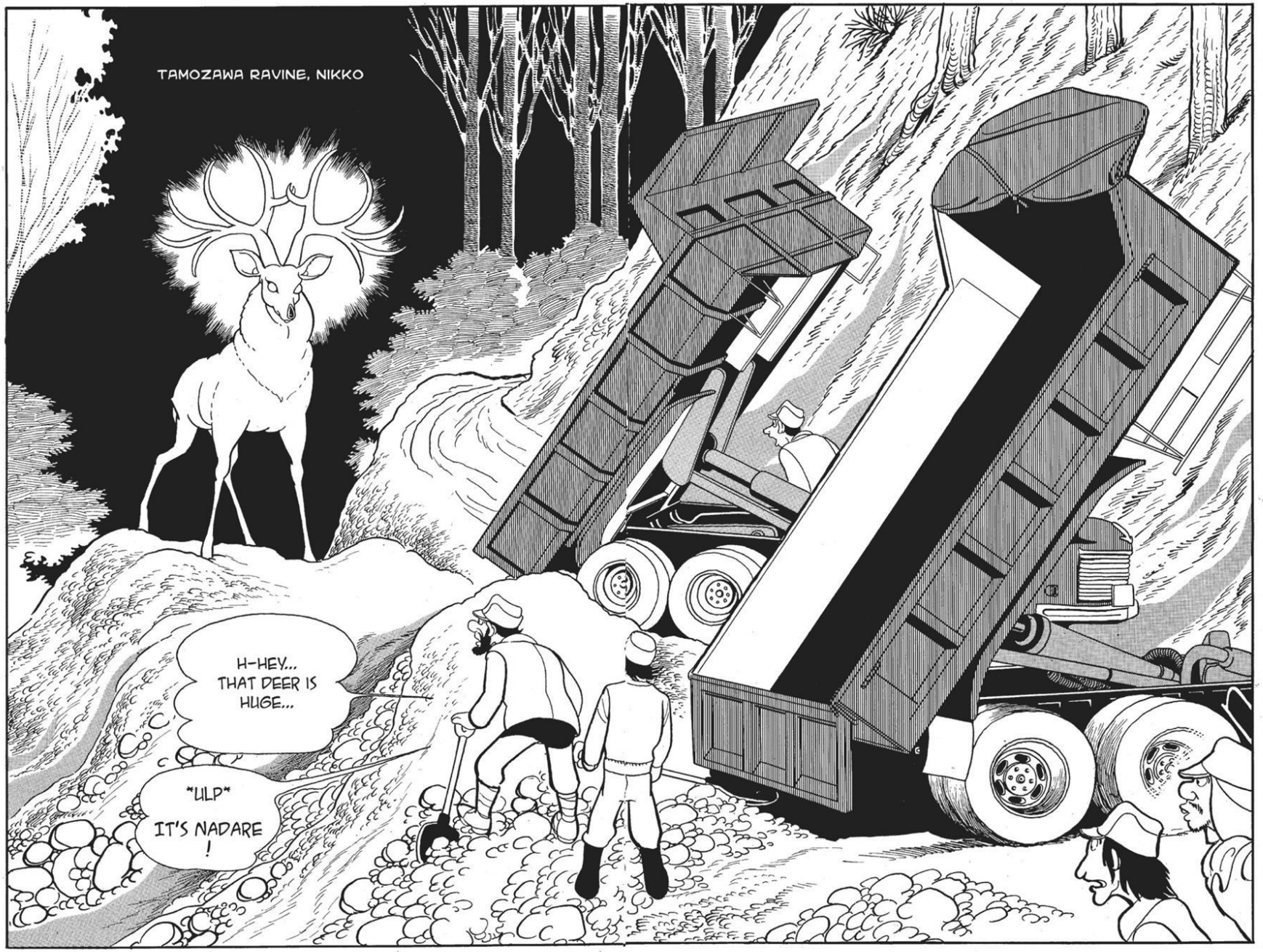

SHUSH! START THINKING HOW TO PULL TONS OF CONSOLATION MONEY FROM THEM.

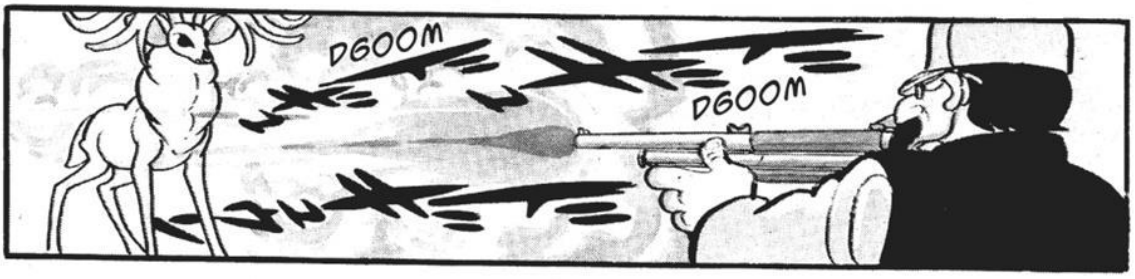
WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS HAD HEART?

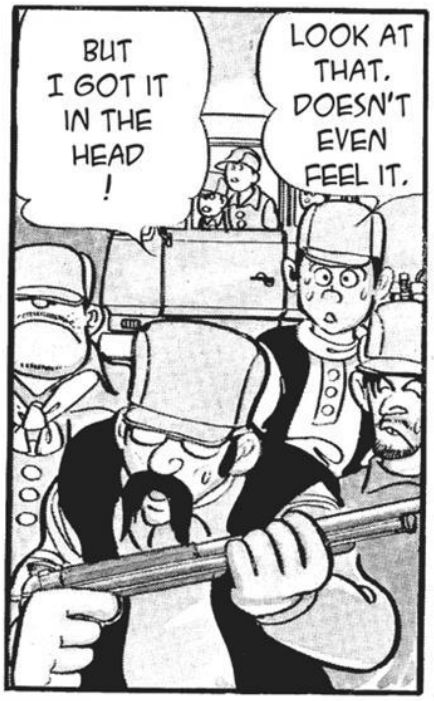

ANYONE WHO OBSTRUCTS MY SURGERY IS FOREVER...
ON MY BLACK LIST.

DO IT IF IT TAKES YOU 100 YEARS.
IF I CAN'T?

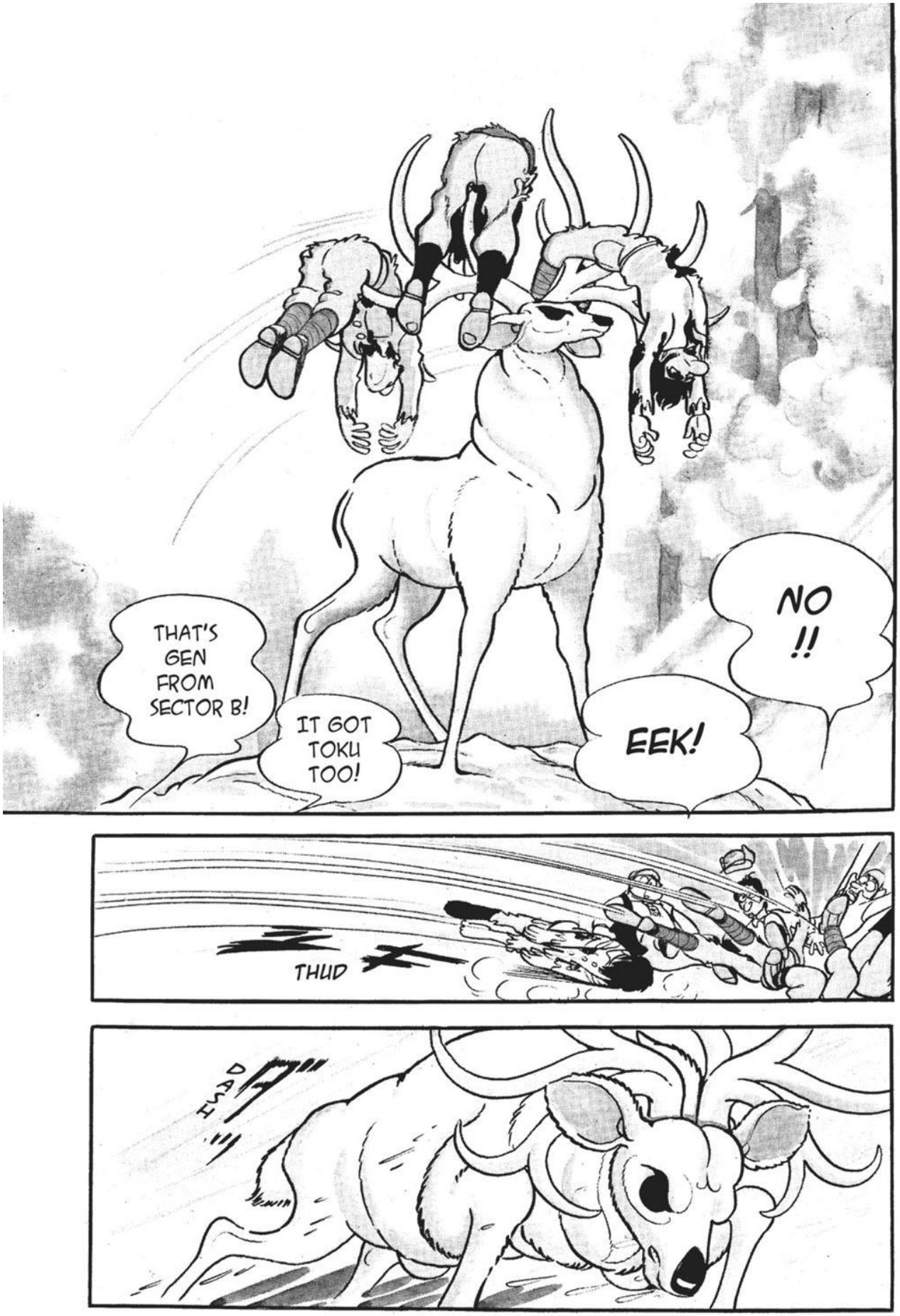
NADARE

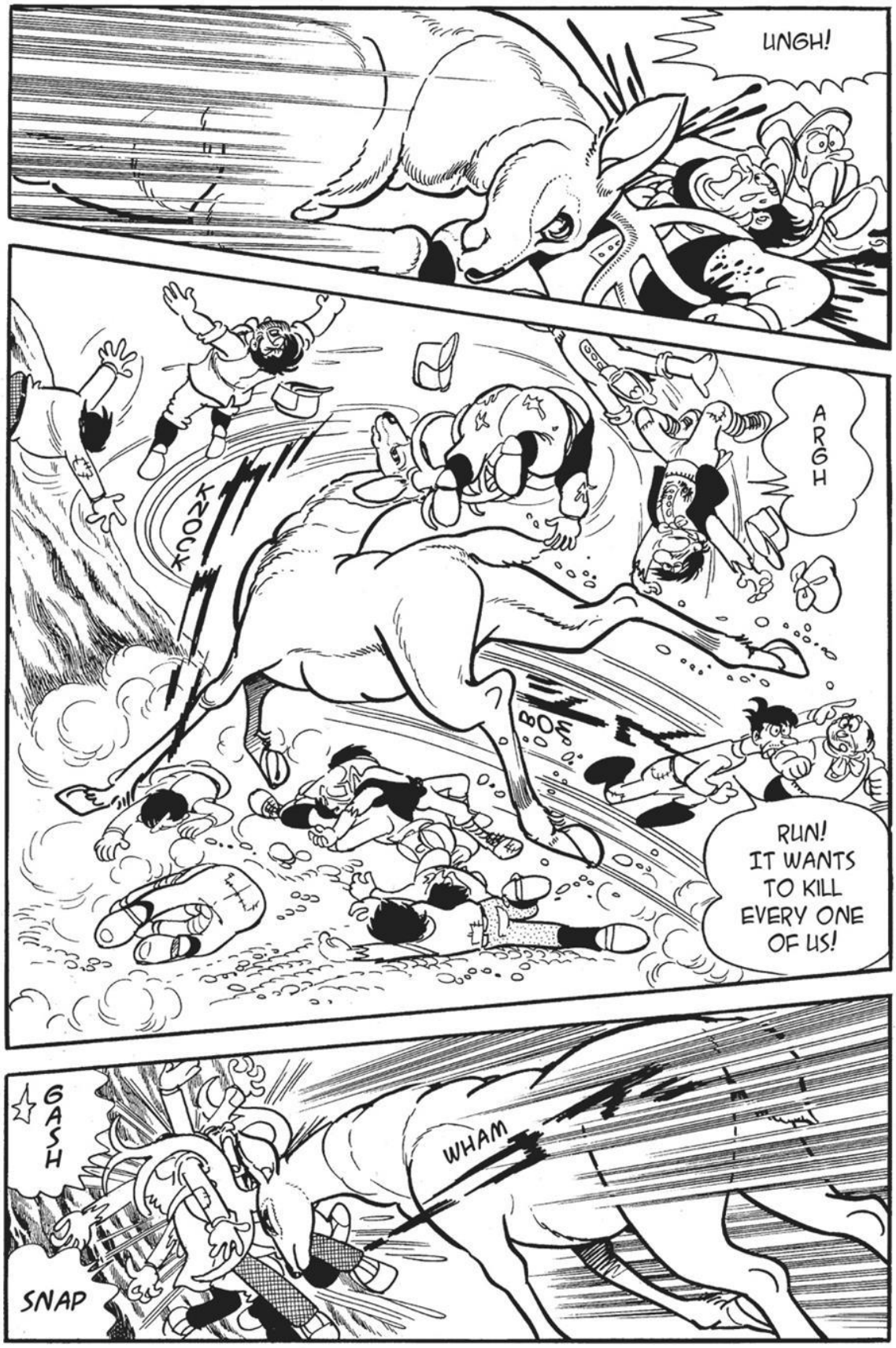

TAMOZAWA RAVINE, NIKKO
H-HEY... THAT DEER IS HUGE...
ULP IT'S NADARE !

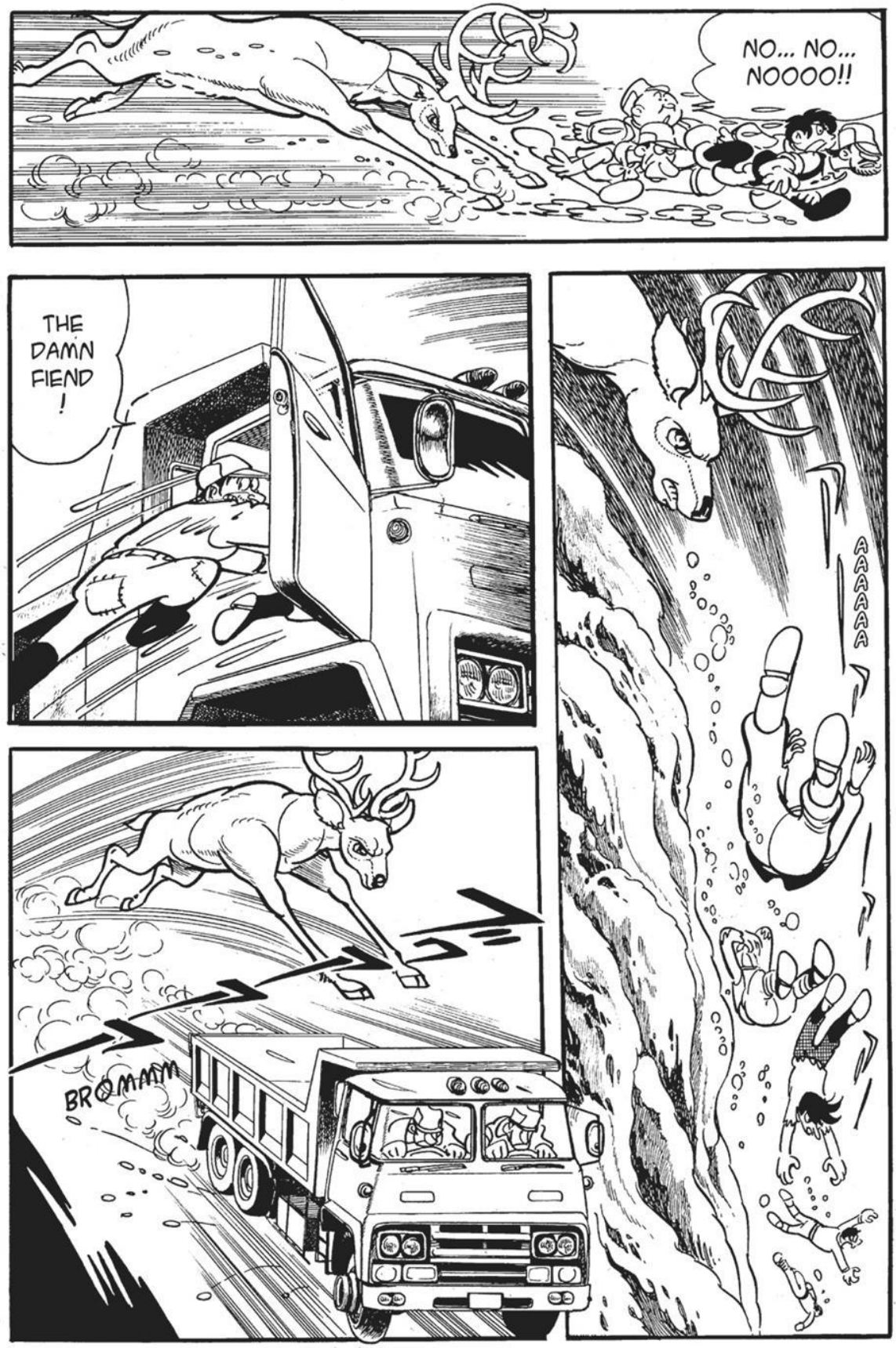


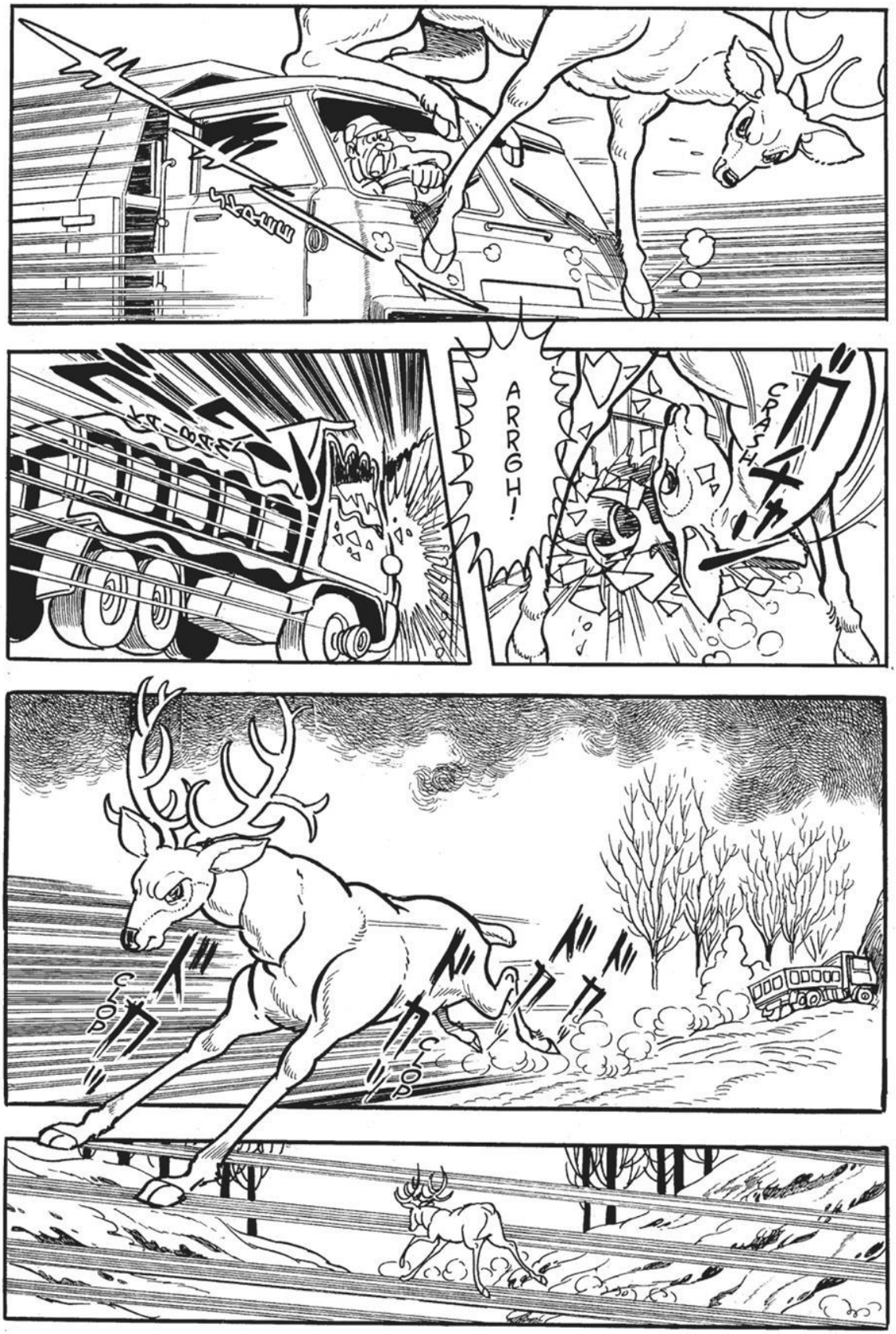


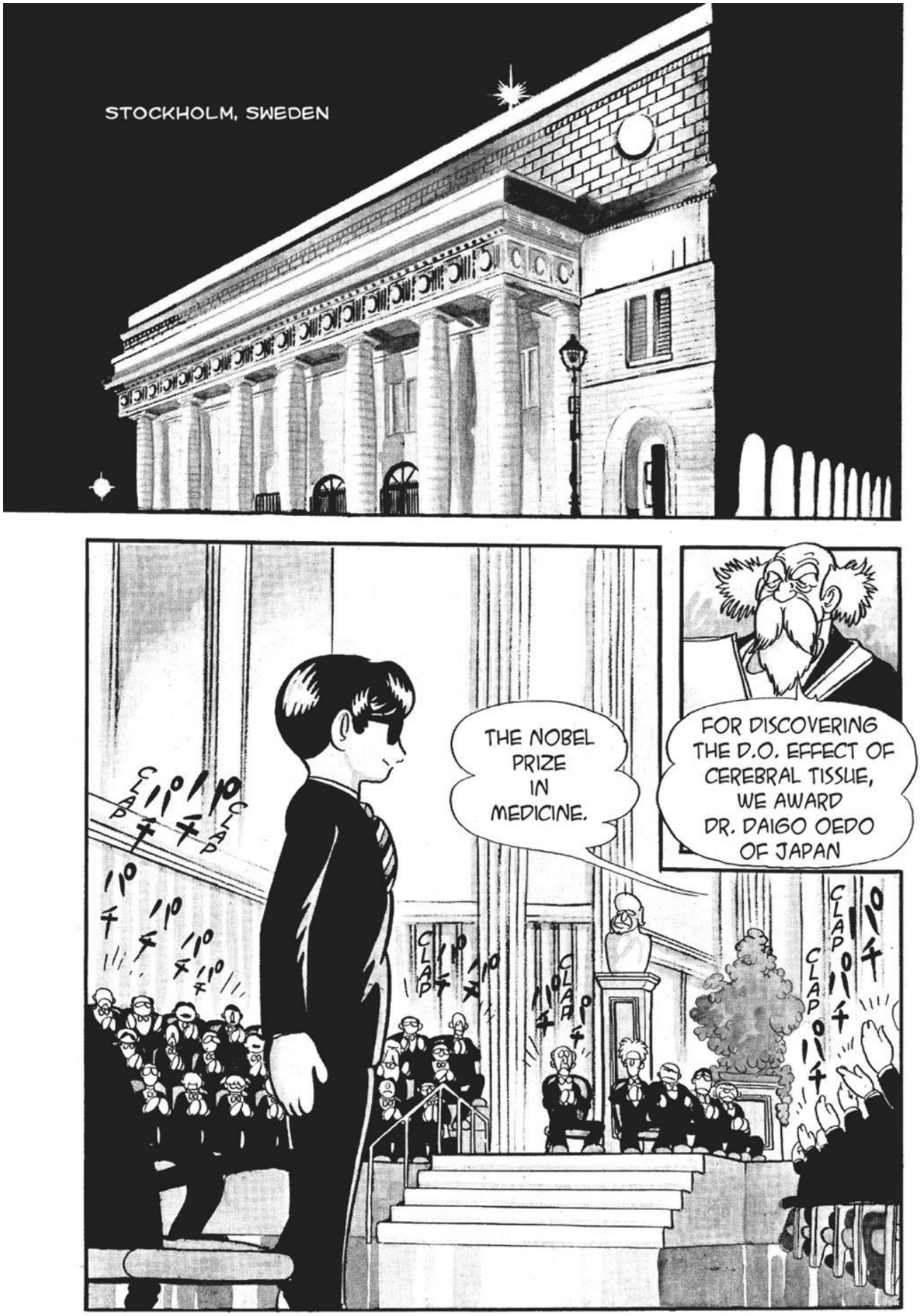
NOTE: "NADARE" MEANS *AVALANCHE* OR *SNOWSLIDE* IN JAPANESE.


THAT'S GEN FROM SECTOR B!
IT GOT TOKU TOO!
EEK!
NO !!
THUD
DAH

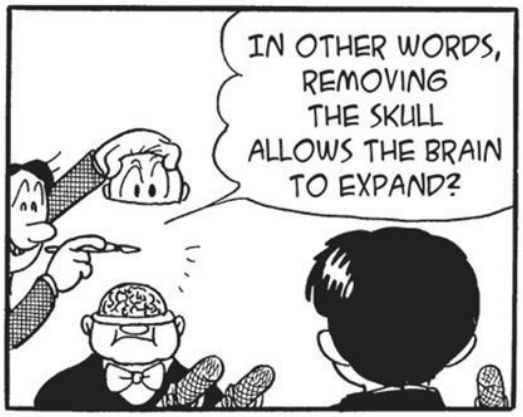

UNGH!
ARGH
KNOCK
BOM
RUN! IT WANTS TO KILL EVERY ONE OF US!
GASH
SNAP
WHAM

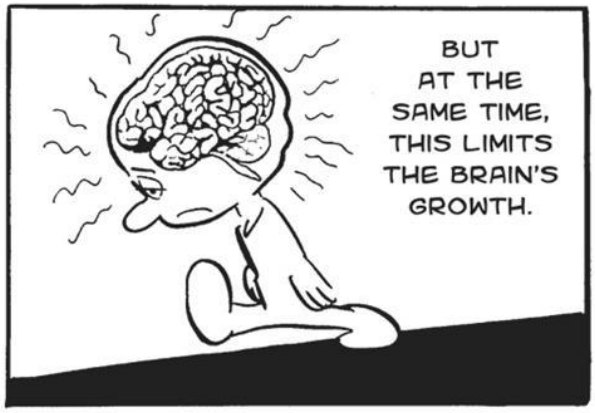

NO... NO... NOOOO!!
THE DAMN FIEND !
BROMMM
AAAAAA

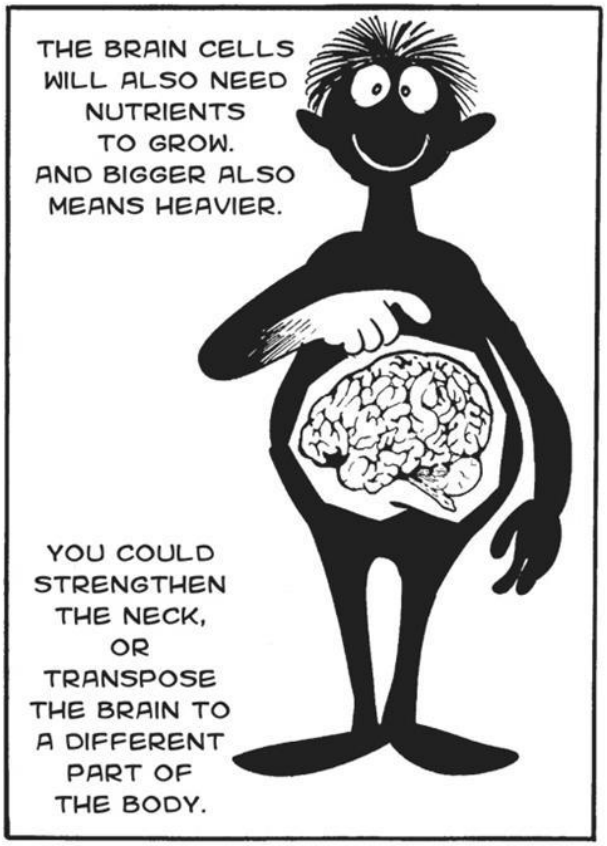

ARRGH!
CRASH
ガチャー

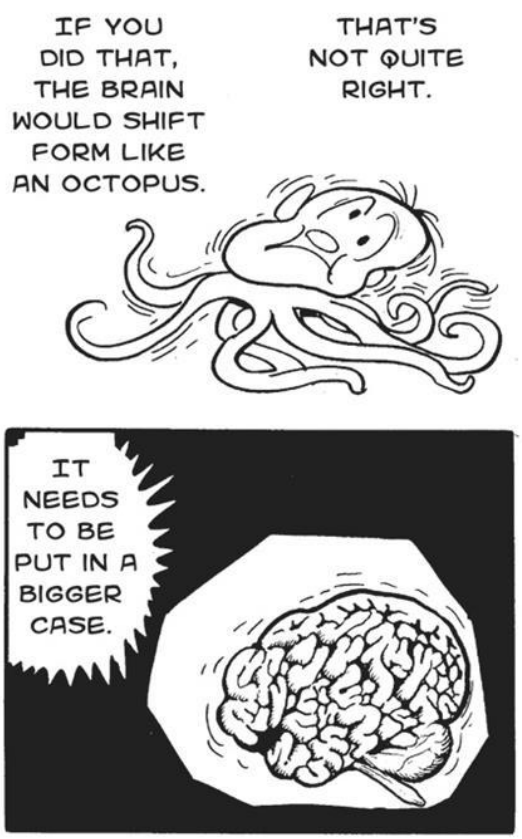

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
THE NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE.
FOR DISCOVERING THE D.O. EFFECT OF CEREBRAL TISSUE, WE AWARD DR. DAIGO OEDO OF JAPAN
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

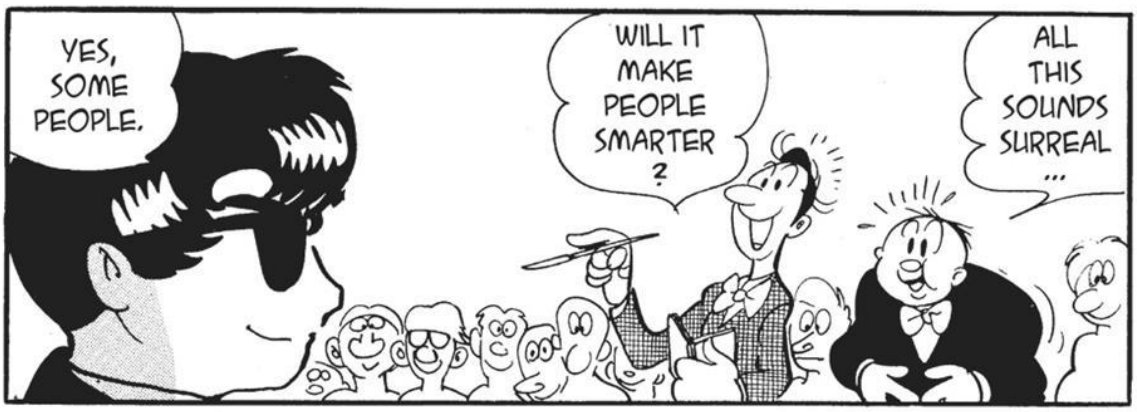
3000m
WHIRRR
JAPAN AIR LIN
I DID FEEL NER-VOUS ON THE STAGE ...
GUESS. I'M GLAD !
PASSENGER EXIT
HOW DO YOU FEEL, DR. OEDO ?
GLAD
GLAD
NO WONDER THERE'S A CASING AROUND IT.
THE BRAIN ITSELF IS AS SOFT AS MISO OR TOFU.
AS YOU KNOW, AN ANIMAL'S BRAIN IS ENCASED IN A SKULL.
COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE D.O. EFFECT IN LAYMAN'S TERMS?

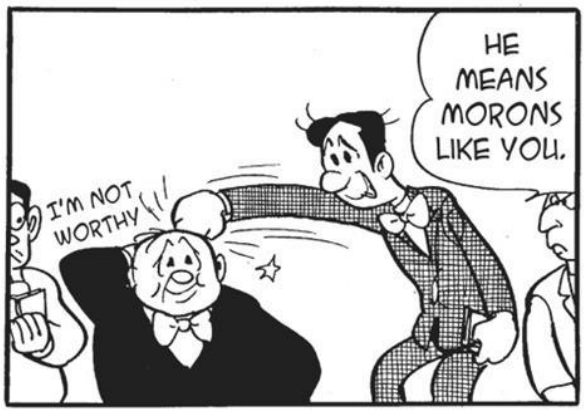

IN OTHER WORDS, REMOVING THE SKULL ALLOWS THE BRAIN TO EXPAND?

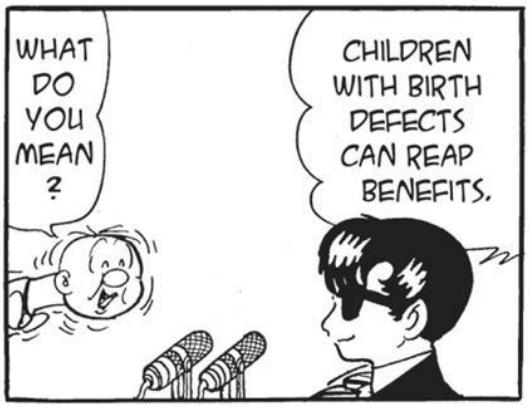

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THIS LIMITS THE BRAIN'S GROWTH.


THE BRAIN CELLS WILL ALSO NEED NUTRIENTS TO GROW. AND BIGGER ALSO MEANS HEAVIER.
YOU COULD STRENGTHEN THE NECK, OR TRANSPOSE THE BRAIN TO A DIFFERENT PART OF THE BODY.

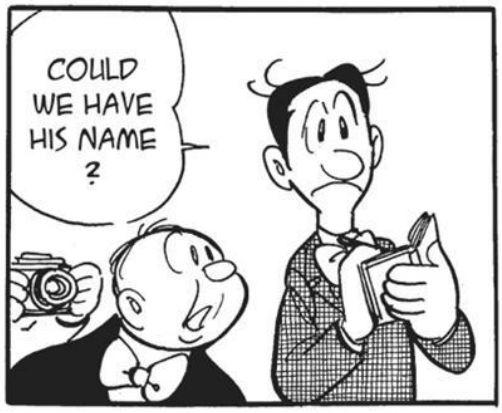

IF YOU DID THAT, THE BRAIN WOULD SHIFT FORM LIKE AN OCTOPUS.
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.
IT NEEDS TO BE PUT IN A BIGGER CASE.

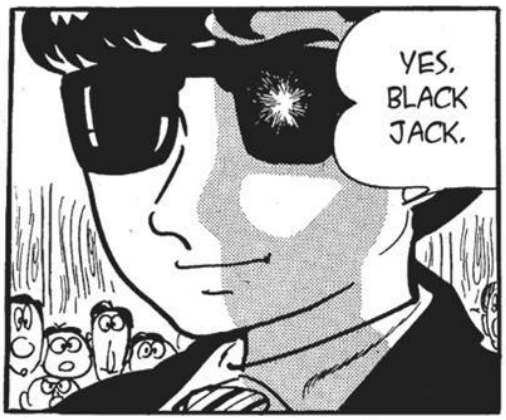

YES, SOME PEOPLE.
WILL IT MAKE PEOPLE SMARTER ?
ALL THIS SOUNDS SURREAL ...


HE MEANS MORONS LIKE YOU.
I'M NOT WORTHY!!

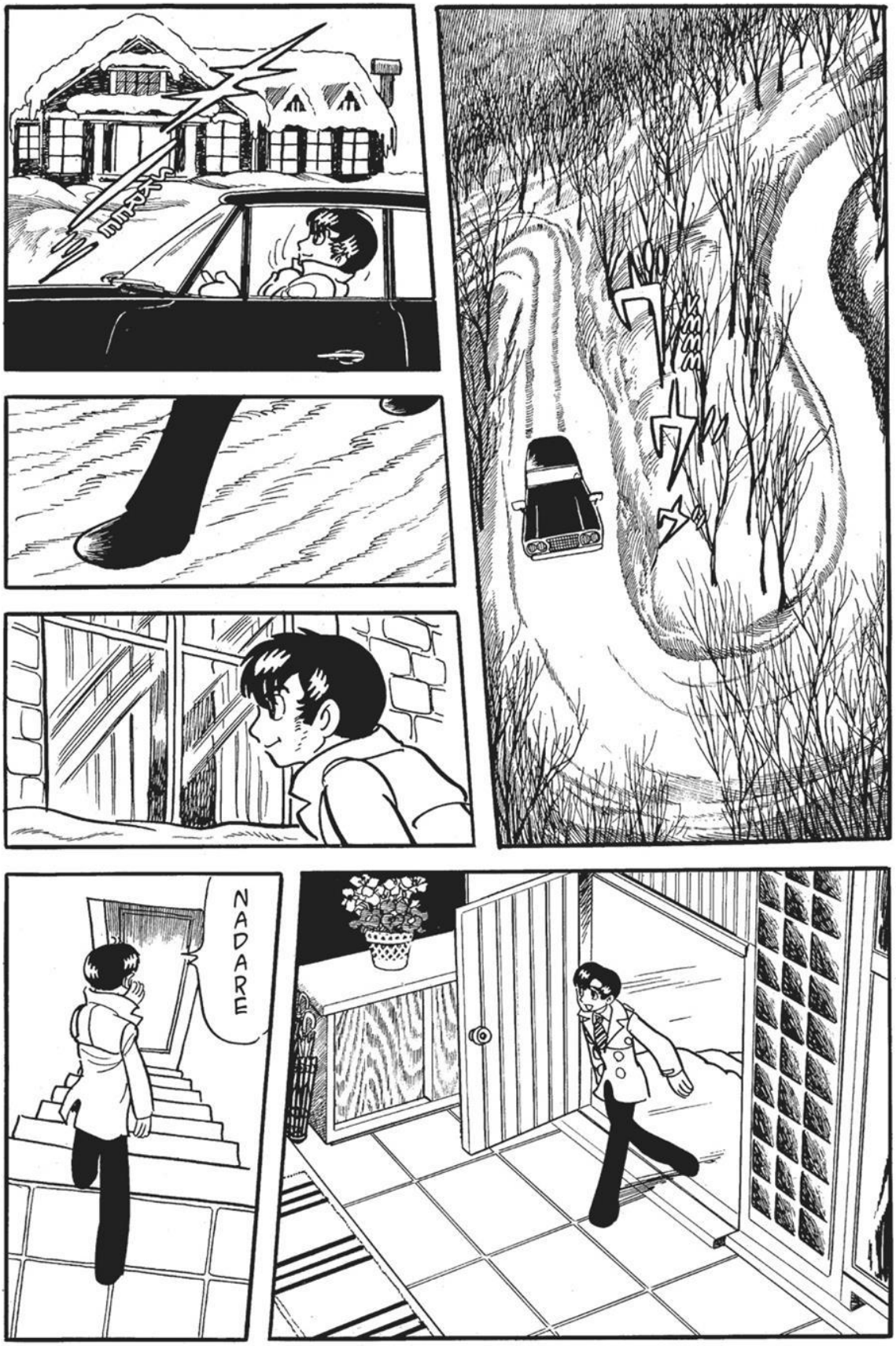

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
CHILDREN WITH BIRTH DEFECTS CAN REAP BENEFITS.

ARE HUMANS NEXT ?
ONLY ON ANIMALS.
HAVE THERE BEEN TESTS ?


COULD WE HAVE HIS NAME ?

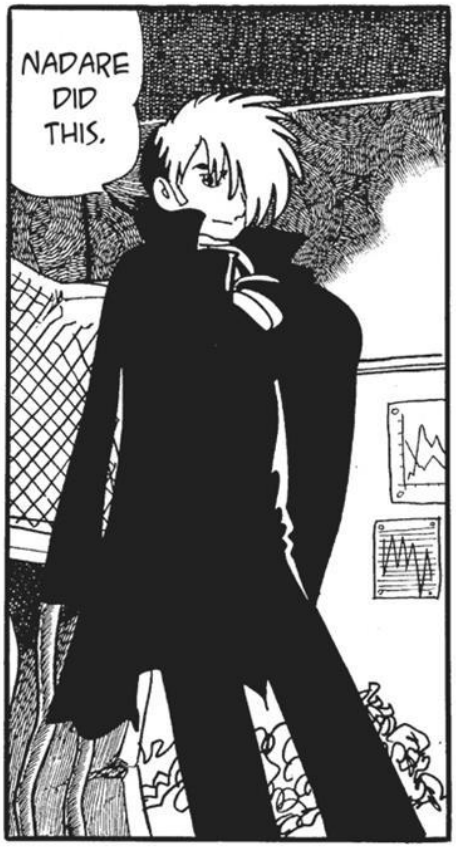

YES. BLACK JACK.

IT WAS THANKS TO A CERTAIN SURGEON THAT I COULD CONDUCT THE ANIMAL TEST-ING.
IT WOULD REQUIRE COMPLEX SURGERY.

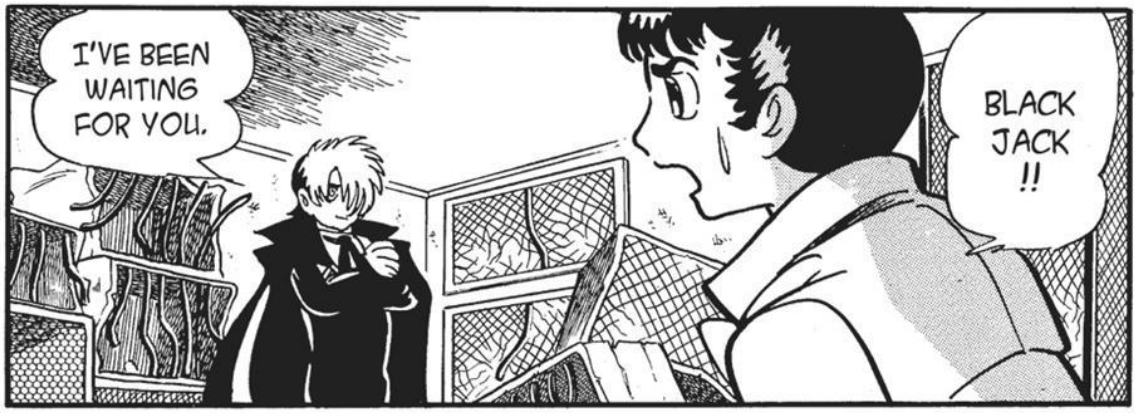

NADARE

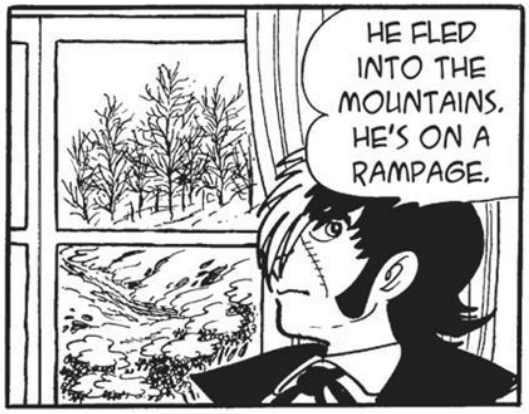
WHOA !!

WHERE ARE YOU ?


NADARE DID THIS.

THEY'RE ALL DEAD. AND WHERE'S NADARE? WHO DID THIS?!

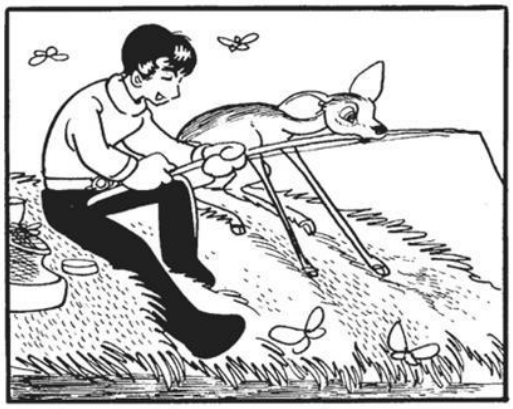

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
BLACK JACK !!

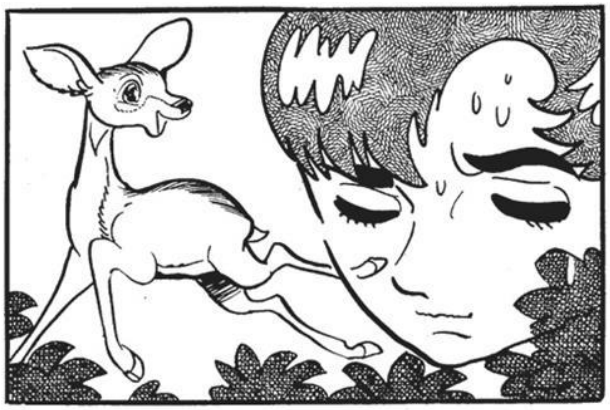

HE FLED INTO THE MOUNTAINS. HE'S ON A RAMPAGE.

YOU'RE LYING TO ME!!

WHILE YOU WERE IN SWEDEN, NADARE GOT OUT OF CONTROL. HE BROKE OUT OF HIS CAGE AND GORED YOUR ASSISTANT TO DEATH.
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!

YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, SO I DID AS YOU ASKED.
DIDN'T I WARN YOU THAT ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN ?





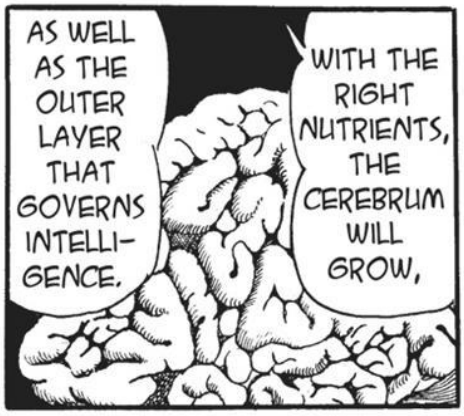
A DEER ?

NADARE IS MY ONLY FAMILY ...

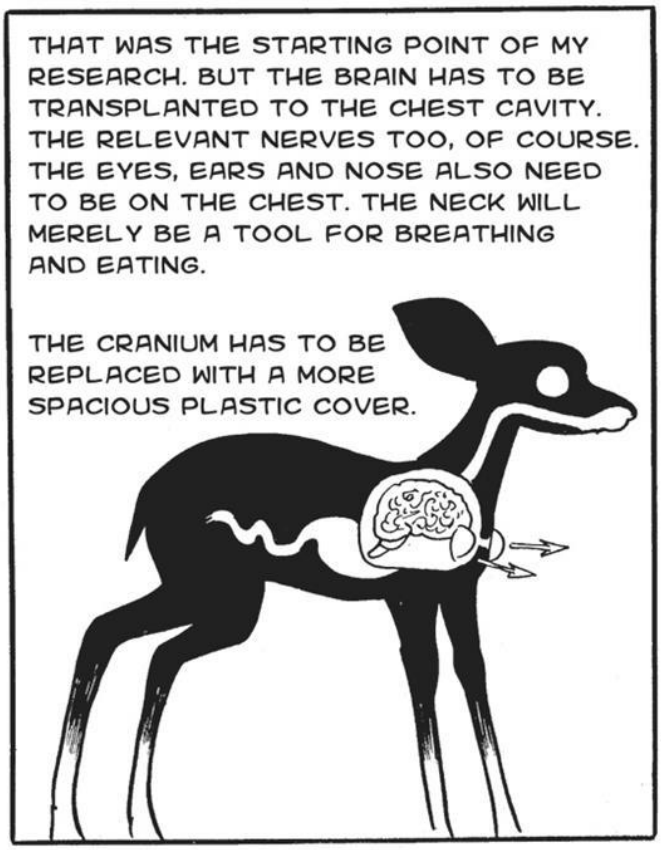
GOOD BOY.

IF HE COULD ONLY TALK !

NADARE IS LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER TO ME.
I'M AN ORPHAN WITHOUT SIBLINGS.

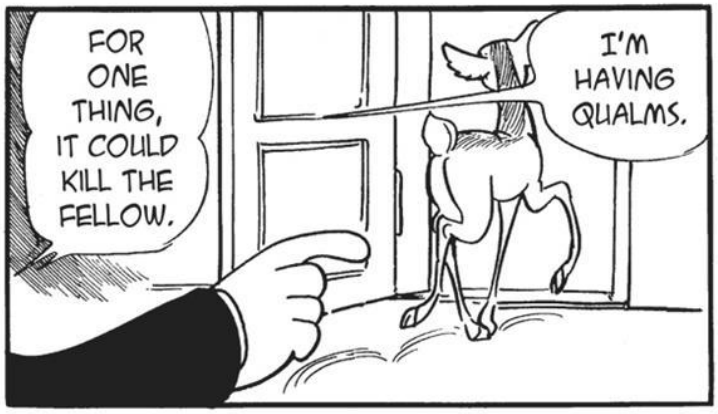

AS WELL AS THE OUTER LAYER THAT GOVERNS INTELLI-GENCE.
WITH THE RIGHT NUTRIENTS, THE CEREBRUM WILL GROW,

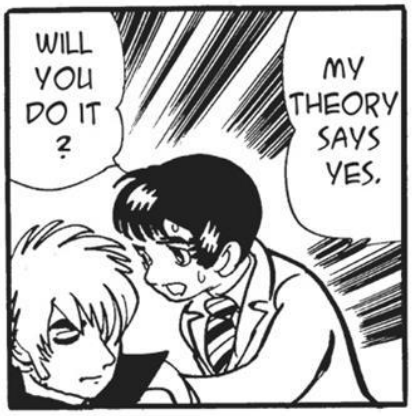
ARE YOU SURE ?

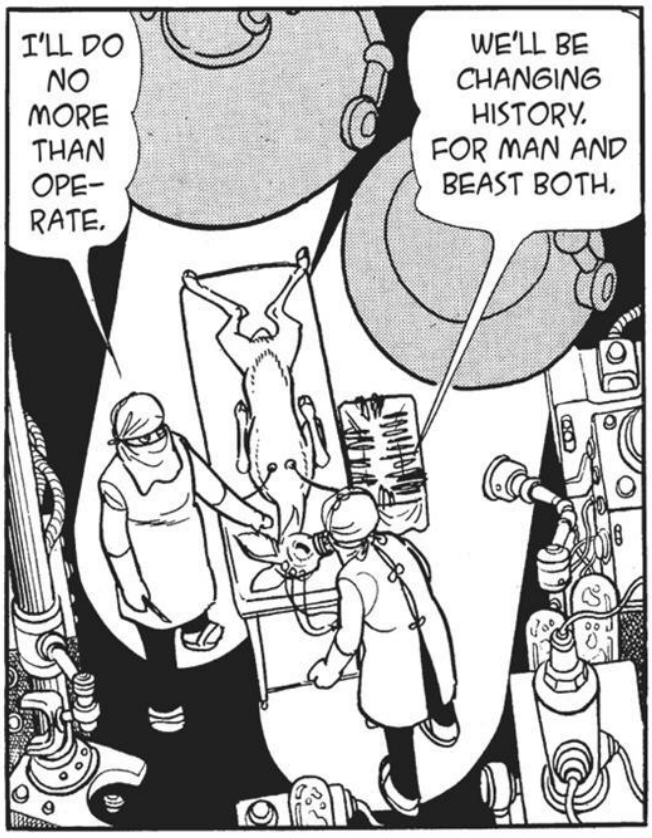

THAT WAS THE STARTING POINT OF MY RESEARCH. BUT THE BRAIN HAS TO BE TRANSPLANTED TO THE CHEST CAVITY. THE RELEVANT NERVES TOO, OF COURSE. THE EYES, EARS AND NOSE ALSO NEED TO BE ON THE CHEST. THE NECK WILL MERELY BE A TOOL FOR BREATHING AND EATING.
THE CRANIUM HAS TO BE REPLACED WITH A MORE SPACIOUS PLASTIC COVER.

BUT WILL THAT LEAD TO HIGHER INTELLI-GENCE?
THE BRAIN MATTER WILL EXPAND, NO DOUBT.

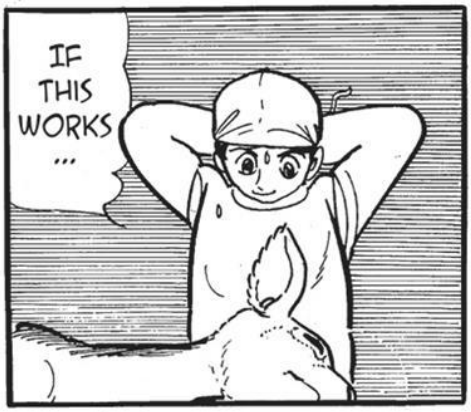
HE'LL BE AS SMART AS MAN.
I AM!


FOR ONE THING, IT COULD KILL THE FELLOW.
I'M HAVING QUALMS.


WILL YOU DO IT?
MY THEORY SAYS YES.


I'LL DO NO MORE THAN OPE-RATE.
WE'LL BE CHANGING HISTORY. FOR MAN AND BEAST BOTH.

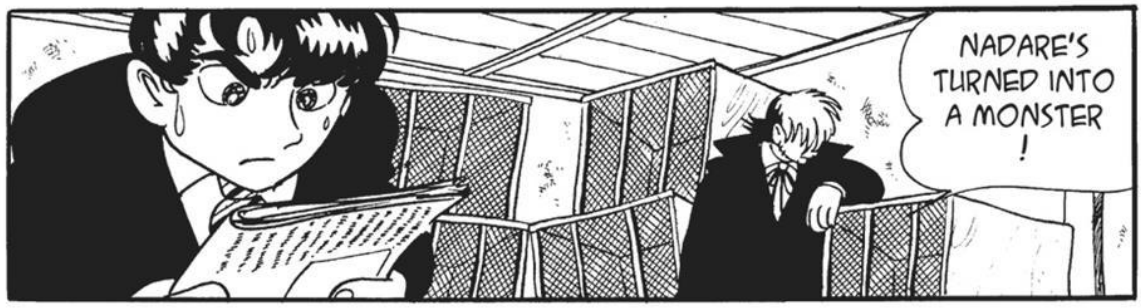
PLEASE! I TRUST YOU!


IF THIS WORKS ...

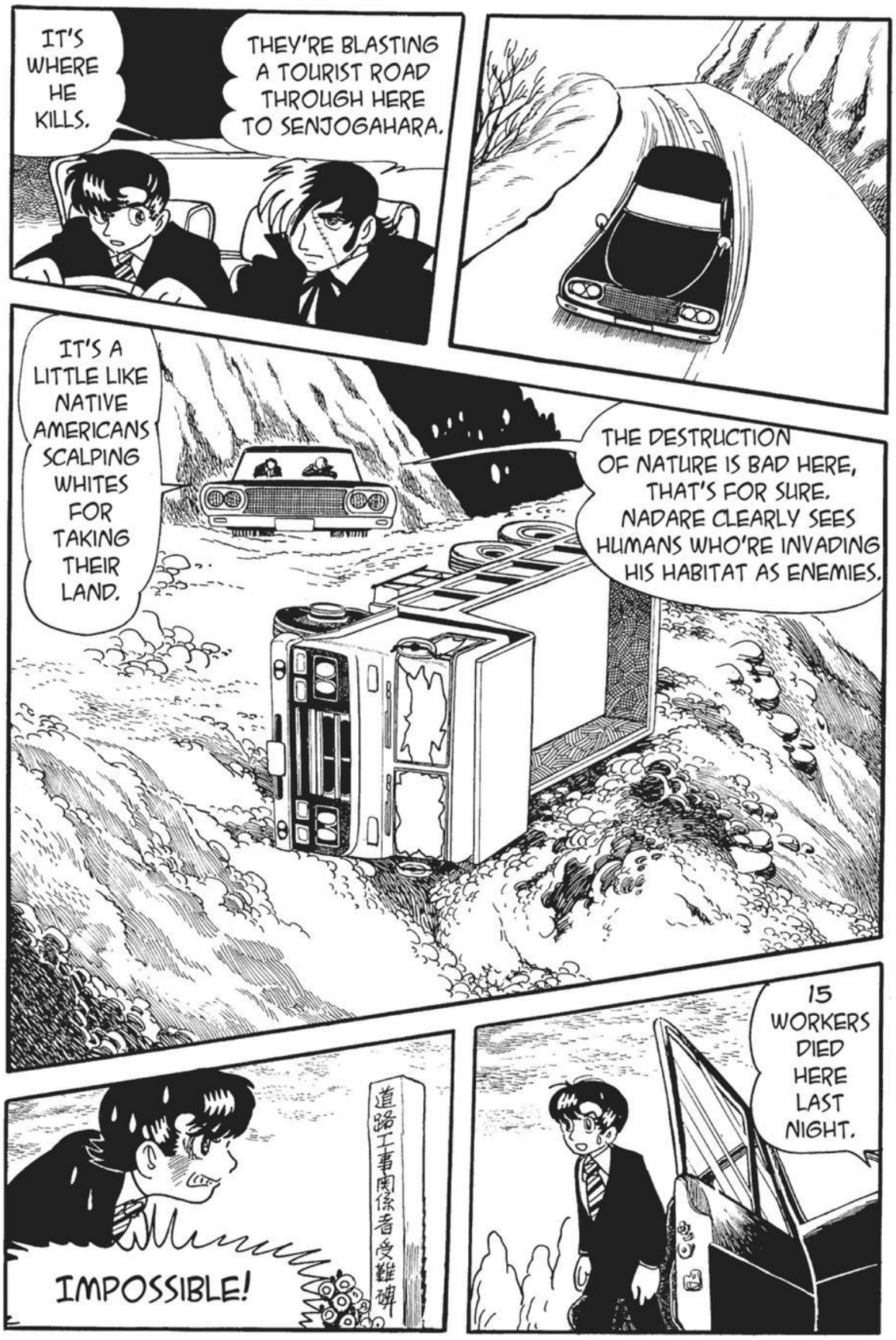
IT'S ALL LIES !

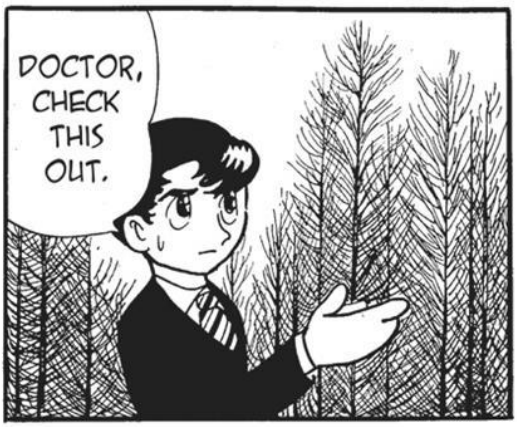
AND THIS IS THE RESULT.
暴力シ

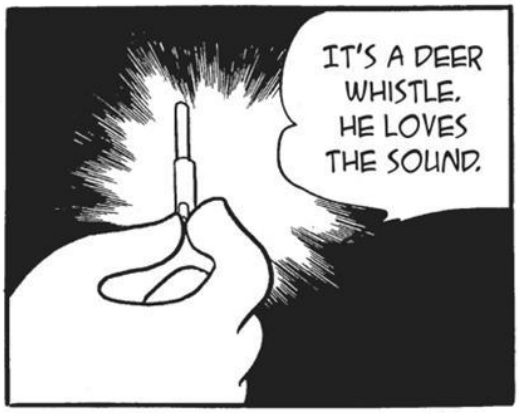
HE'S KILLED 34 PEOPLE SO FAR.
THAT COULD ONLY BE HIM.


NADARE'S TURNED INTO A MONSTER !

THEN COME WITH ME.
BUT WHY? I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT I DID WRONG.

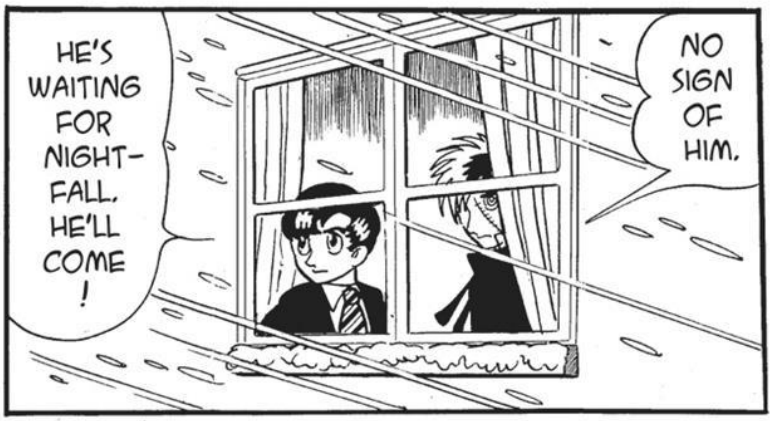

IT'S WHERE HE KILLS.
THEY'RE BLASTING A TOURIST ROAD THROUGH HERE TO SENJOGAHARA.
IT'S A LITTLE LIKE NATIVE AMERICANS SCALPING WHITES FOR TAKING THEIR LAND.
THE DESTRUCTION OF NATURE IS BAD HERE, THAT'S FOR SURE. NADARE CLEARLY SEES HUMANS WHO'RE INVADING HIS HABITAT AS ENEMIES.
道路工事関係者受難碑
IMPOSSIBLE!
15 WORKERS DIED HERE LAST NIGHT.

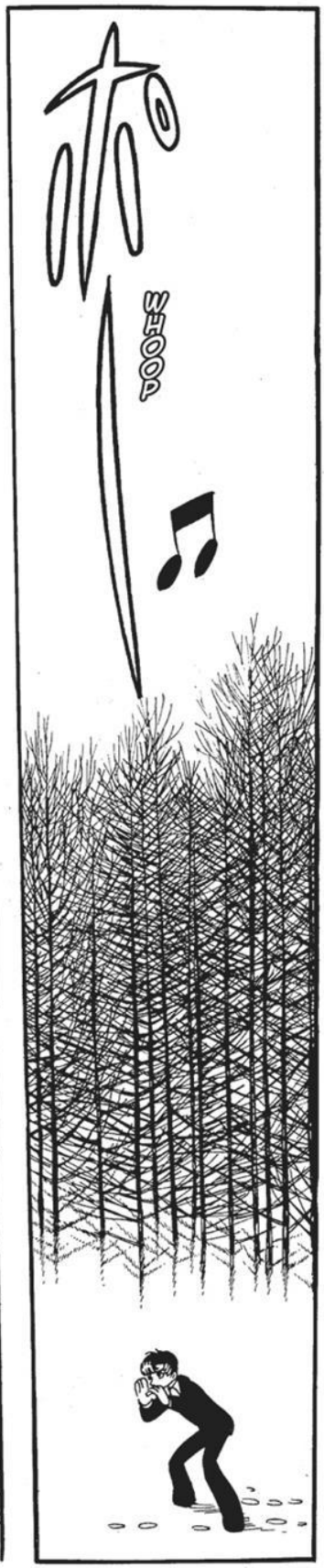

DOCTOR, CHECK THIS OUT.


IT'S A DEER WHISTLE. HE LOVES THE SOUND.

I'M SURE HE'LL COME TO ME.

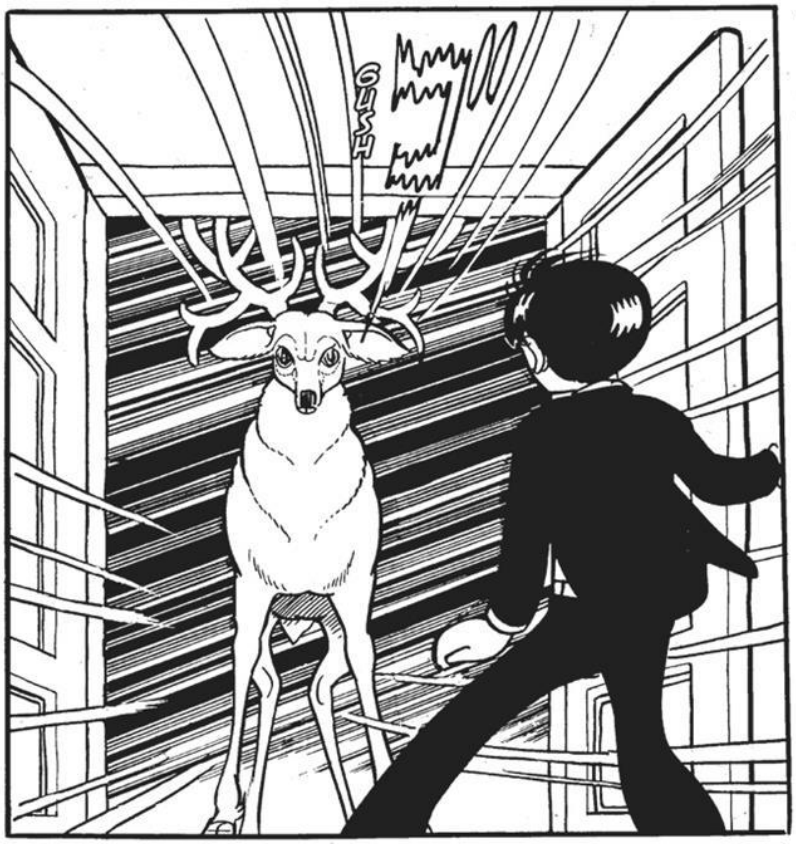
I BELIEVE IN MY LITTLE BROTHER. IT'S JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING. ON NADARE'S PART, I MEAN. HE'S WRONG ABOUT HUMANS, AND I CAN REIN HIM IN.
THE HUNT WILL BE ON IN A FEW DAYS.


NO SIGN OF HIM.
HE'S WAITING FOR NIGHT-FALL. HE'LL COME!

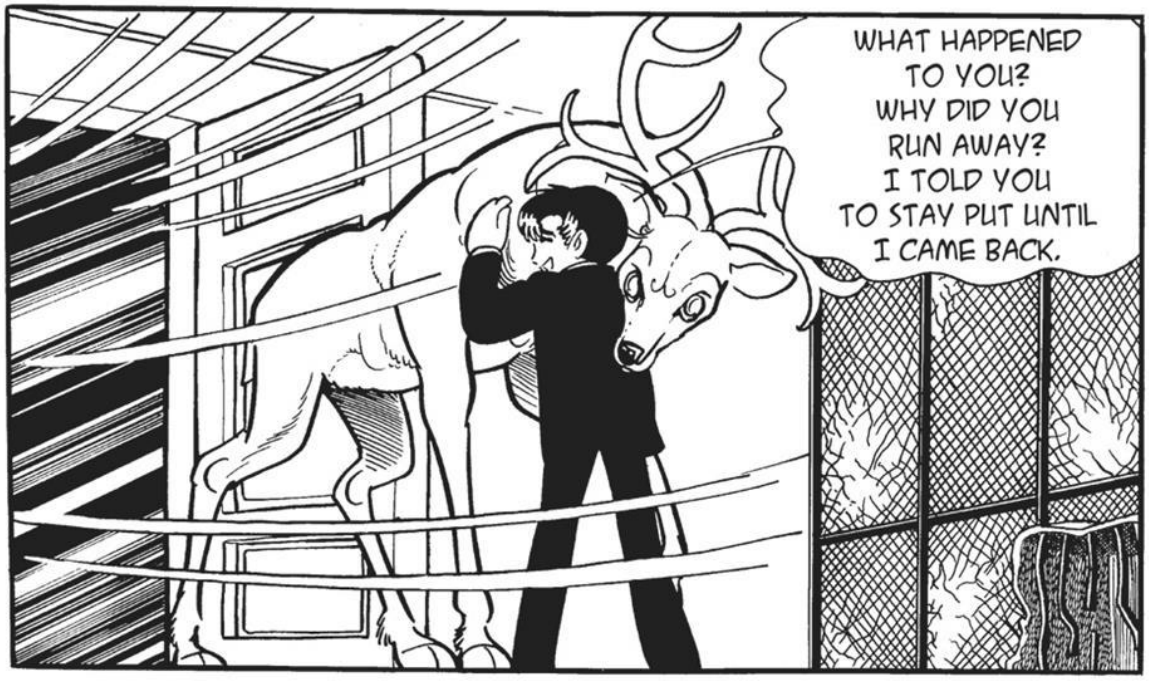

WHOOP

HERE HE IS!

KONK
コンコン
KONK
コンコン

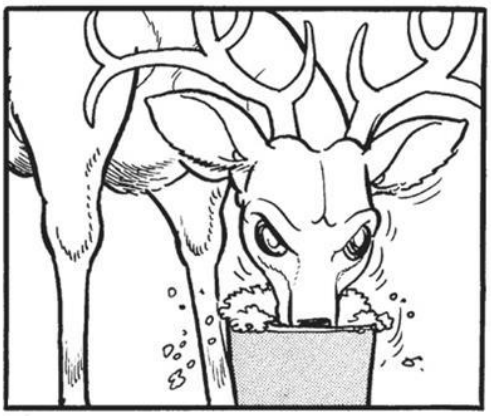

GLUNG

NADARE
...


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY? I TOLD YOU TO STAY PUT UNTIL I CAME BACK.

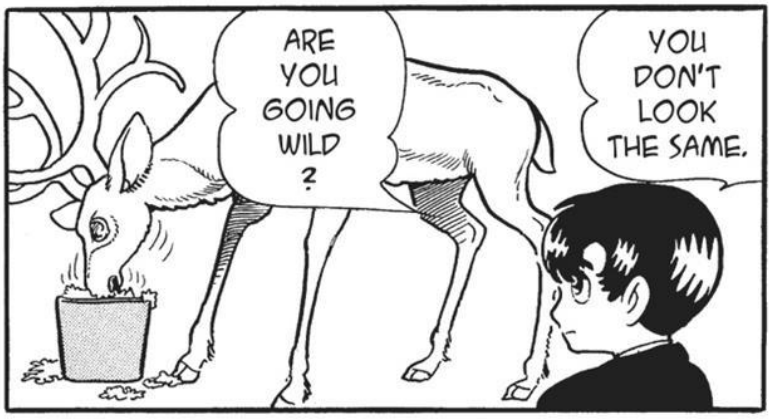
YOU KNOW HIM. HE DID THAT OP FOR YOU.

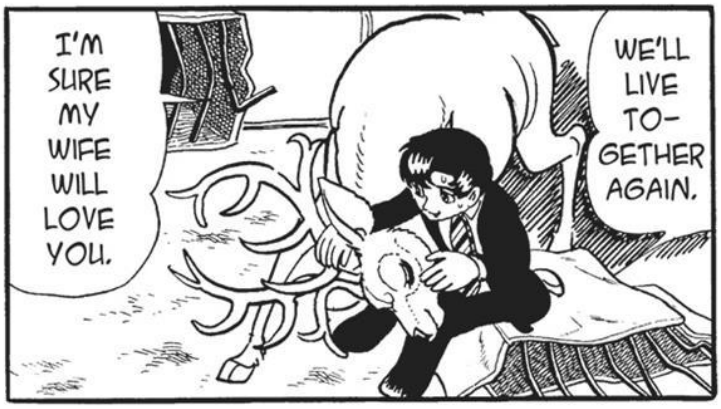
HF HFFF



HERE, YOUR CHOW. EAT.

LISTEN ...


ARE YOU GOING WILD ?
YOU DON'T LOOK THE SAME.

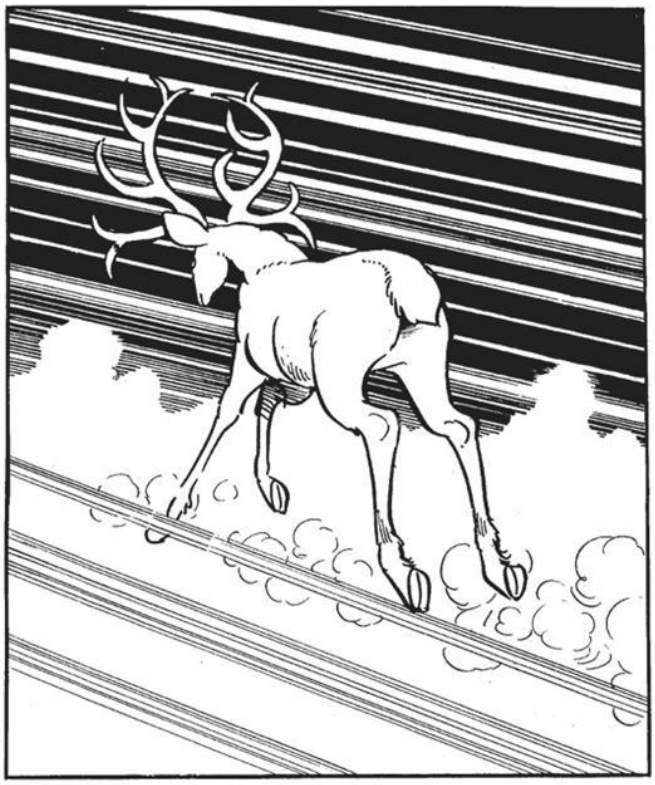

I'M SURE MY WIFE WILL LOVE YOU.
WE'LL LIVE TO-GETHER AGAIN.

I KNOW THERE ARE BAD MEN. BUT ONLY MAN CAN JUDGE MAN.
YOU CAN'T ATTACK HUMANS. THEY'RE LIVING THINGS LIKE YOU, OKAY?

I MET HER IN COLLEGE. I PRO-POSED TO HER TODAY, AT THE AIRPORT.
YOU HEARD RIGHT ...

YOUR WIFE ?

THERE'S A ROOM UPSTAIRS.
WE'RE GOING TO BED NOW.



DOC-TOR!
GIVE UP. HE'S GONE BACK WILD.
NADARE'S VANISHED AGAIN. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
YOU'RE WRONG. I'M SURE HE UNDERSTANDS MY WORDS. WHY SHOULD HE GO WILD?
YES, THIS IS OEDO.
WHAT?!

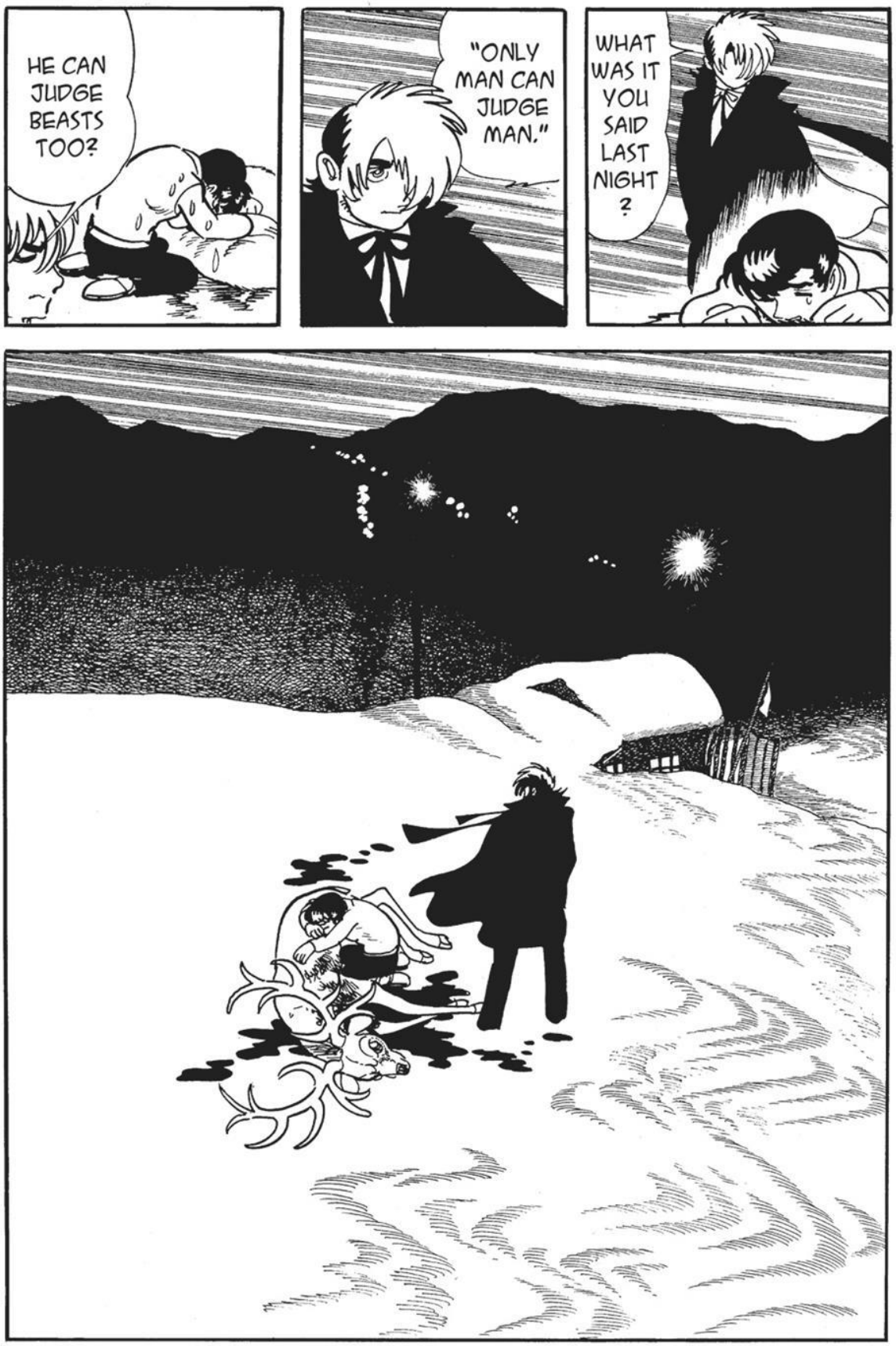
WHAT'S UP?
SKREE
NO... AAAH!

SHE WAS COMING TO SEE ME.
SHE WAS MY FIANCÉE !!
WE FOUND YER CARD ...
THAT DEER FIEND MUST'VE ATTACKED THIS MORNING.
"SOB SOB"
DOCTOR, WE'LL BE COMBING THE AREA STARTING TOMORROW. WE'LL GET THAT BEAST !
WE'RE SORRY TO HEAR IT.
WHY DID YOU KILL HER ?!
I'LL KILL HIM MYSELF !
I GET IT, OKAY ?!
HE'S TURNED INTO A MONSTER. YOUR NADARE IS GONE.
SO MAYBE IT GETS BIGGER, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT THAT DOES?
WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE BRAIN YET.

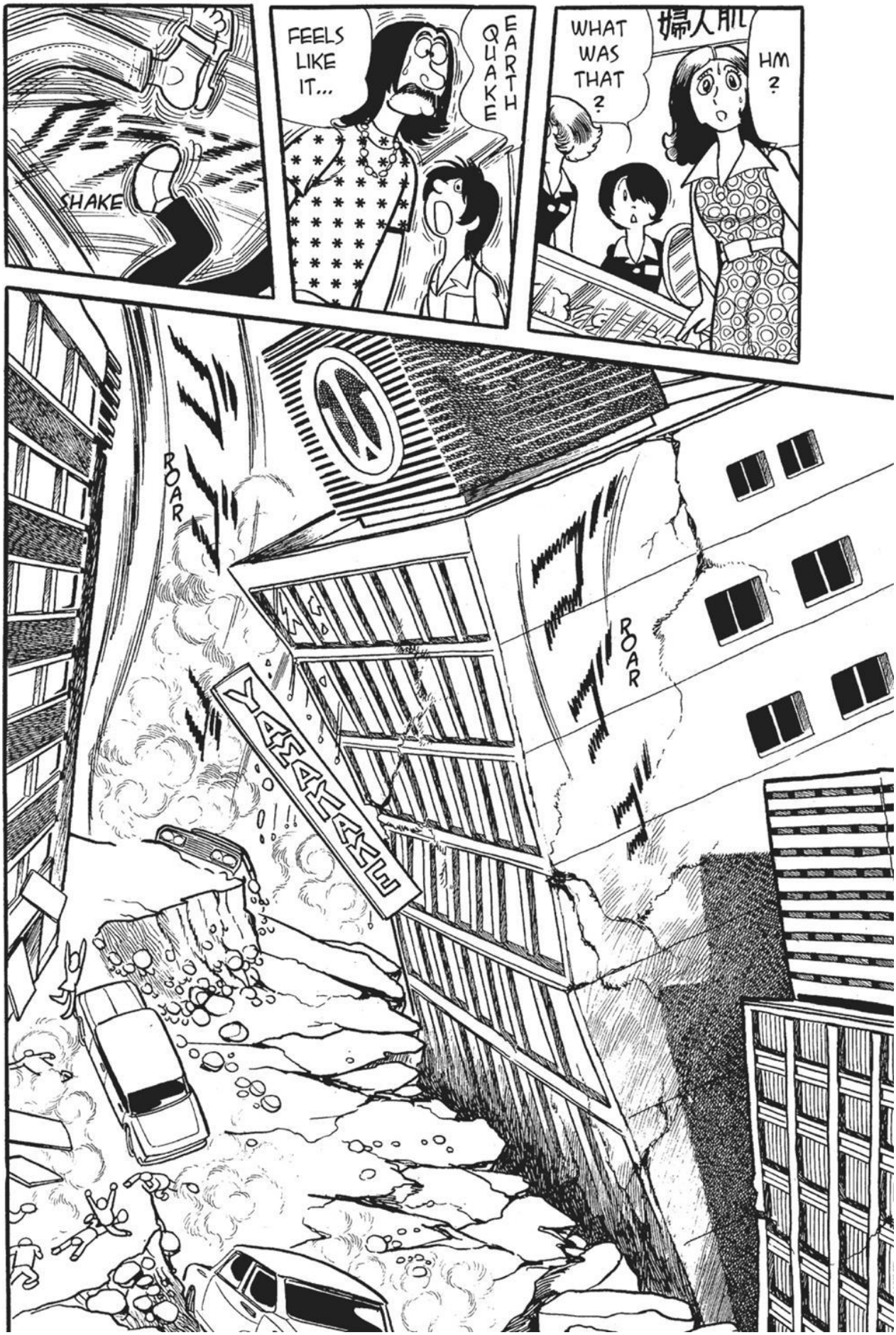
WHOOA
HE'S EMPTY FROM THE NECK UP. AIM FOR THE CHEST. DON'T MISS, OR HE'LL KILL YOU.
カシャッ
KSHIK
コツ
KNOK
コツ
KNOK
HE'S HERE ...
WHOO
WHEE

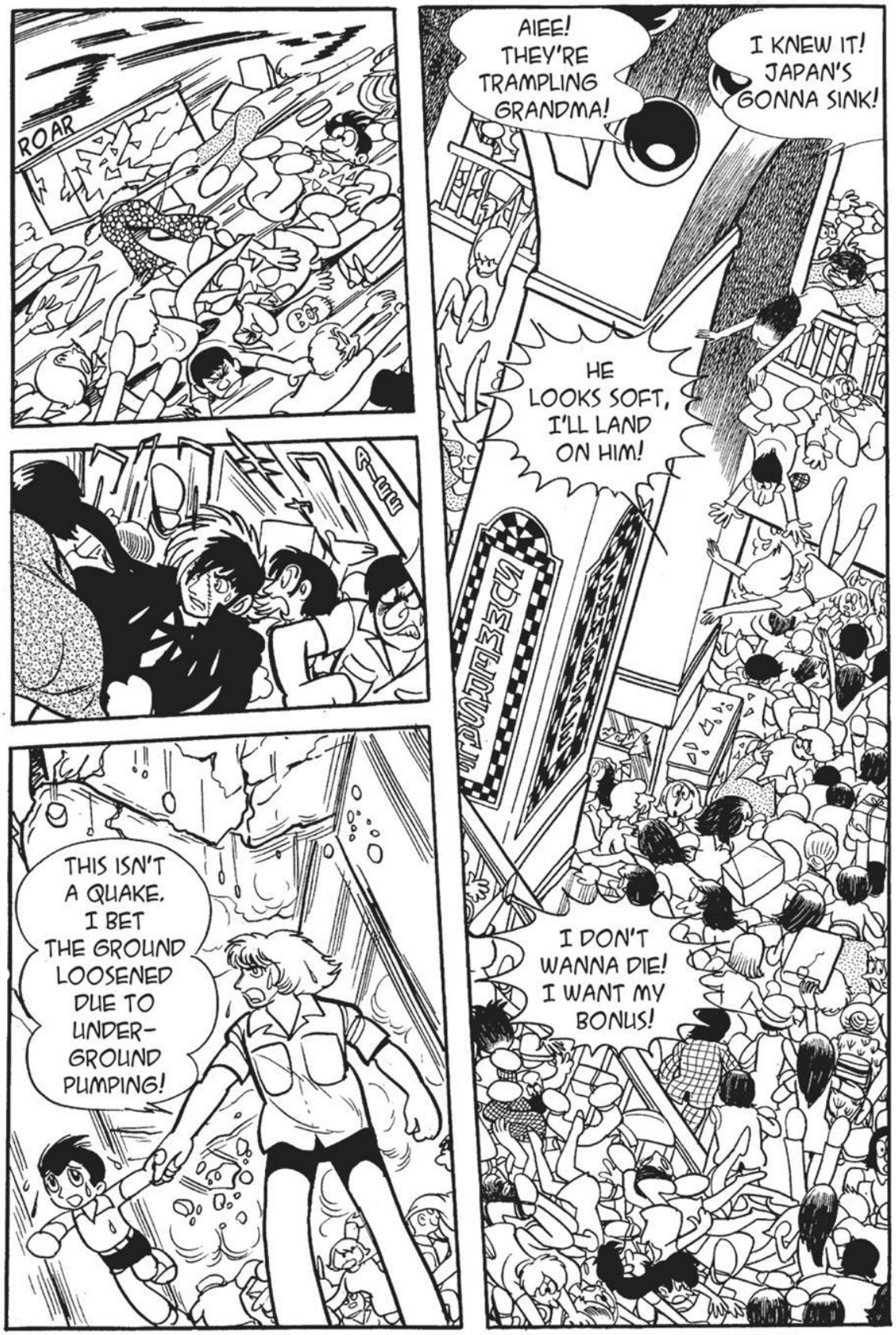
GUSH
BOOM BOOM
HIEEEE
BAM
HIEEE

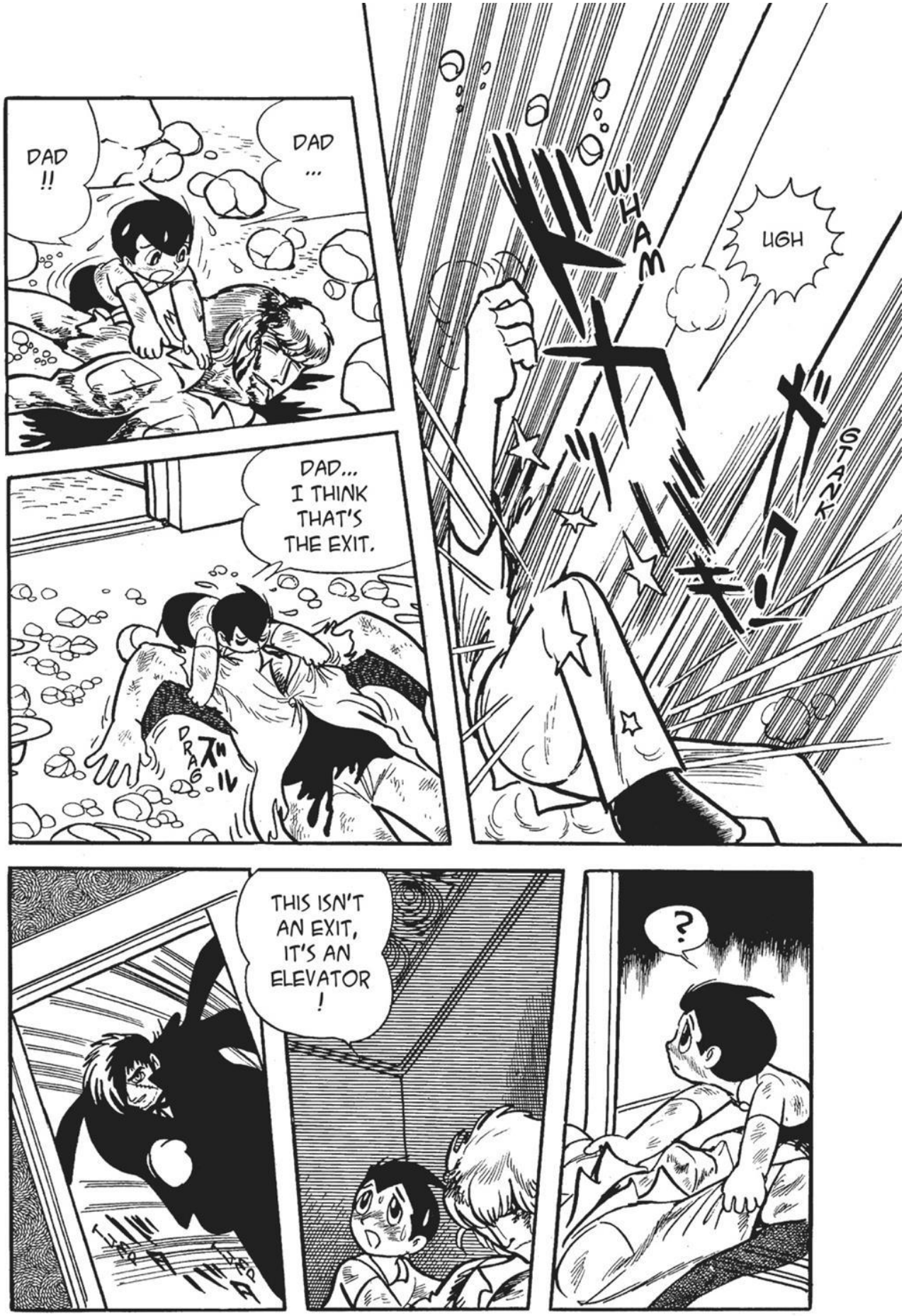
THUD
BUT IT'S ONLY JUST.
FOR-GIVE ME.
NA DARE ...

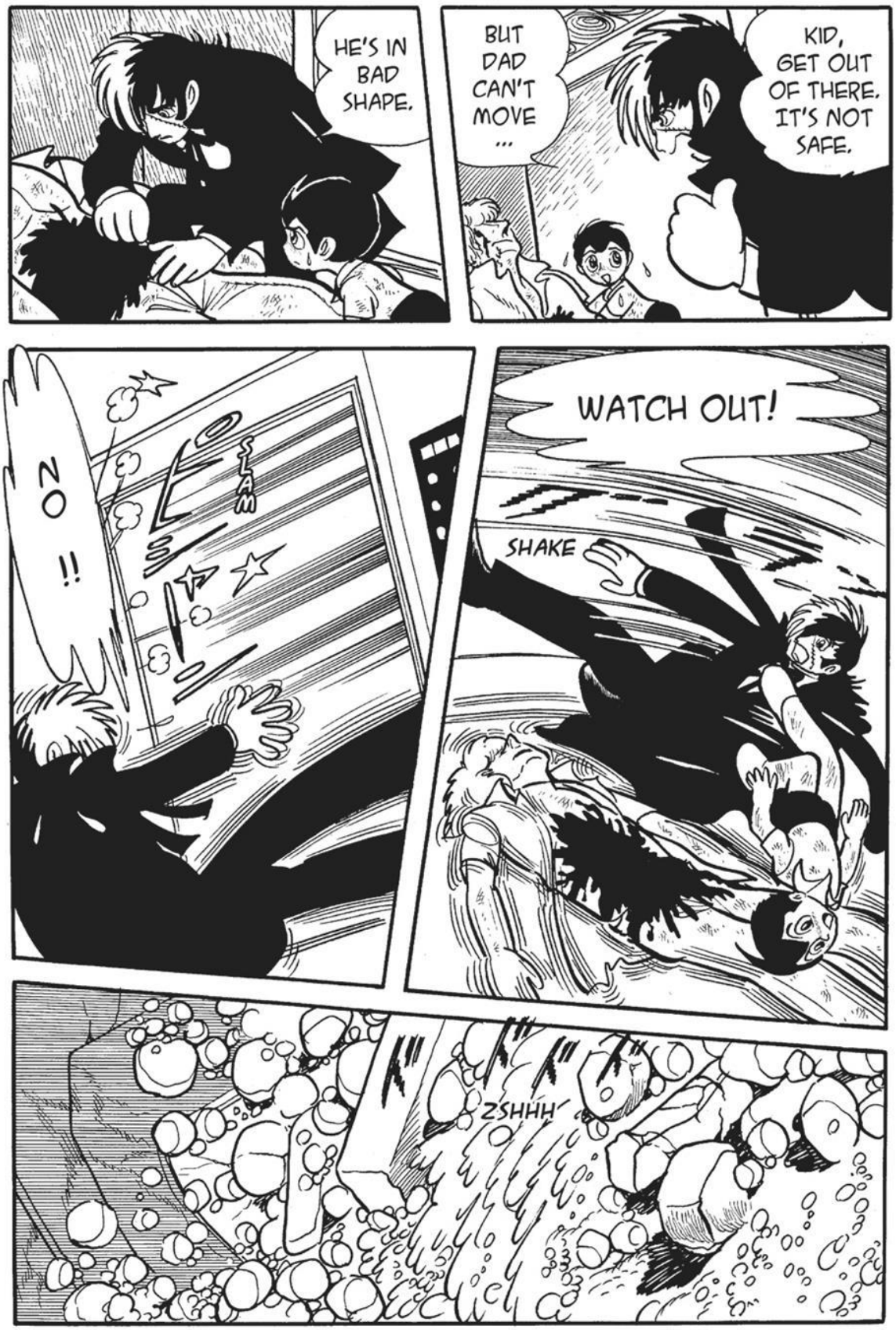

HE CAN JUDGE BEASTS TOO?
"ONLY MAN CAN JUDGE MAN."
WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID LAST NIGHT ?

THREE IN A BOX


SHAKE
FEELS LIKE IT...
EARTH QUAKE
WHAT WAS THAT ?
婦人服
HM ?
ROAR
ROAR
YASSAKKSU


ROAR
THIS ISN'T A QUAKE. I BET THE GROUND LOOSENED DUE TO UNDER-GROUND PUMPING!
AIEE! THEY'RE TRAMPLING GRANDMA!
I KNEW IT! JAPAN'S GONNA SINK!
HE LOOKS SOFT, I'LL LAND ON HIM!
I DON'T WANNA DIE! I WANT MY BONUS!


DAD !!
DAD ...
DAD... I THINK THAT'S THE EXIT.
DRAG ズル
WHAM
UGH
GIANT
THIS ISN'T AN EXIT, IT'S AN ELEVATOR !
?


HE'S IN BAD SHAPE.
BUT DAD CAN'T MOVE ...
KID, GET OUT OF THERE. IT'S NOT SAFE.
NO !!
SLAM
WATCH OUT!
SHAKE
ZSHHH

KRUNK

WOBBLE

ARE WE STUCK? WE CAN'T GET OUT?
THE DOOR'S SLAMMED SHUT. THE CEILING MUST HAVE CRUMBLED AND FALLEN.

TEAR

URR ...

YEAH, WE'RE CANNED IN HERE.
PUNCH

HE'LL LAST 4 HOURS AT MOST. HE'LL DIE IF UNTREATED.

RUPTURED ABDOMINAL CAVITY, ORGANS SPILLING OUT ...

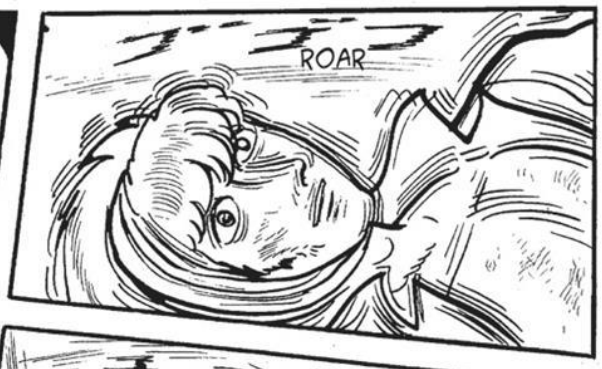
BUT, YOU SEE ...
YES, I AM.
ARE YOU A DOCTOR ?
I'LL GIVE HIM A PAINKILLER. WE BETTER START THINKING ABOUT HOW TO GET OUT.
I DON'T HAVE MY EQUIPMENT WITH ME. ALL I HAVE ARE SOME SYRINGES AND DRUGS.
WE'D BE TRAPPED EVEN IF WE WERE ANTS.
EVEN THE VENT !
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOTALLY SEALED IN. LIKE IN A MURDER MYSTERY...

BUT, BUT... DAD WILL DIE WHILE WE'RE WAITING!

SORRY, KID, WE'RE TRAPPED. NOTHING TO DO BUT TO WAIT FOR HELP.

DAD ?
THIS WAS A BASEMENT FLOOR... IF WE'RE BURIED, IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME.

BLAME THE STORE ...
STUPID, STUPID EARTHQUAKE! IF YOU KILL DAD, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU !


ROAR

IT'S SHAKING AGAIN.
MOOOOOU

TRY NOT TO TALK TOO MUCH.

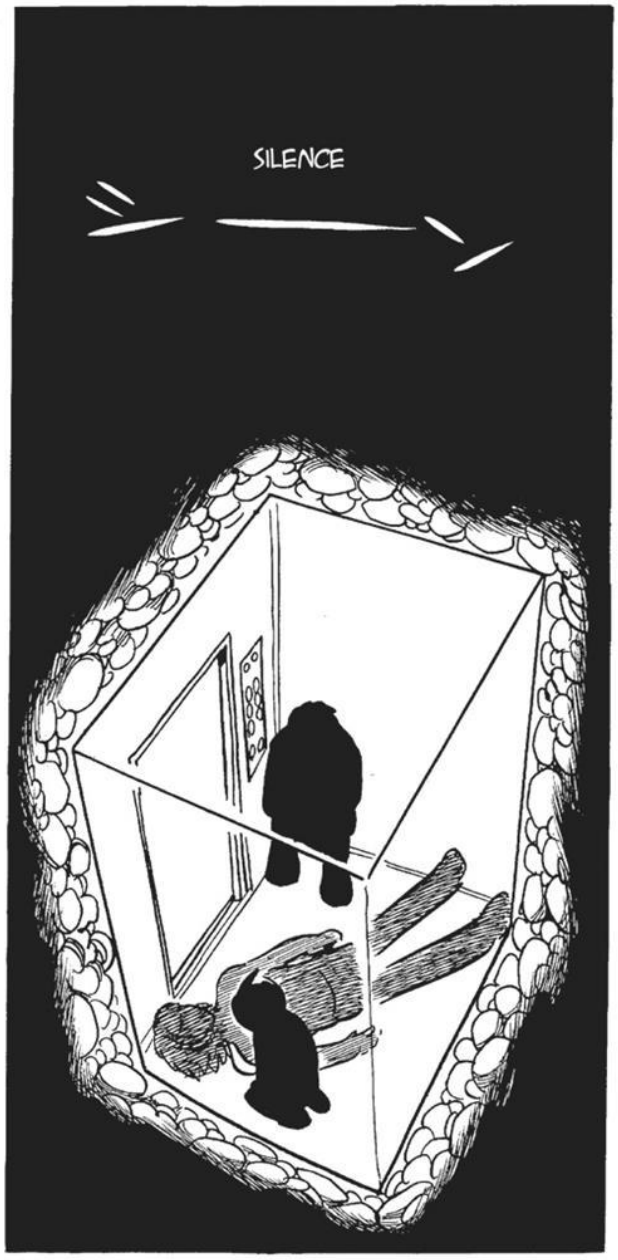
THAT CREATED A SINKHOLE. DAD'S A CIVIL ENGINEER AND IS PRETTY SURE OF IT ...
THEY PUMPED UP TOO MUCH WATER TO KEEP THE PLACE COOLED.

YOU'LL HOWL IN PAIN.
WHEN THE PAINKILLER WEARS OFF ...
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
WHO'RE YOU TRYING TO FOOL ?

B-BUT I GOTTA TALK TO MY SON... I DON'T WANT HIM TO FEEL SCARED.

NGG NGGG NGGH

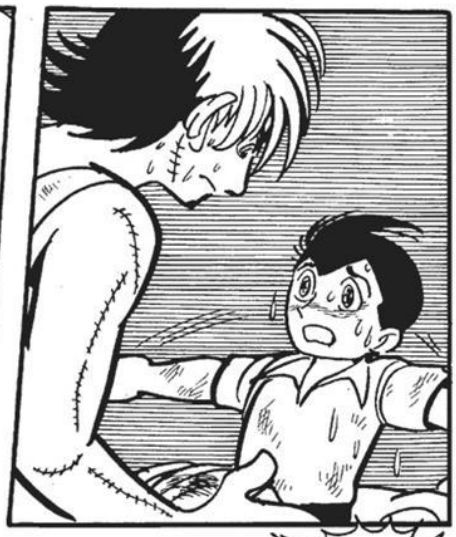
DOES IT HURT ?
DAD
WATER... I'M JUST THIRSTY.


SILENCE

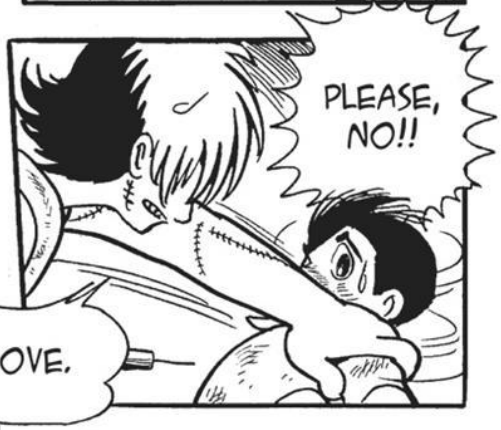
THE AIR'S FUNNY.
THIS IS THE LAST VIAL.
DOCTOR... THANK YOU.
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL RUN OUT OF OXYGEN IN AN HOUR OR SO.
I WASN'T JUST IMAGINING IT, THEN.
WE'VE BEEN STUCK IN HERE FOR 3 HOURS NOW. THIS ELEVATOR IS PRETTY SMALL.
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
THEN WE'LL DIE OF SUFFO-CATION!
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

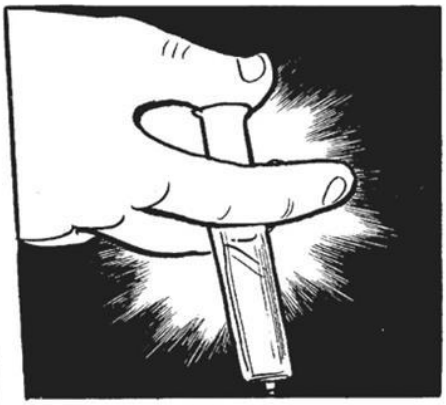
DOCTOR ...
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
IF I DIE, THE OXYGEN WILL LAST THAT MUCH LONGER. F-FOR HISASHI'S SAKE ...
EVEN IF I GET TO A HOSPITAL, AREN'T I A GONER ?
NO, DAD! DON'T DIE !
IF IT MEANS HE'LL LIVE ...
MY WIFE DIED TWO YEARS AFTER HE WAS BORN. HE'S ALL I HAVE.
WHICH IS BETTER? BOTH OF US DEAD, OR JUST ONE OF US ?
HISASHI, DON'T BE STUPID! LISTEN TO DADDY!
IF YOU'RE GONNA DIE, I'LL DIE TOO!

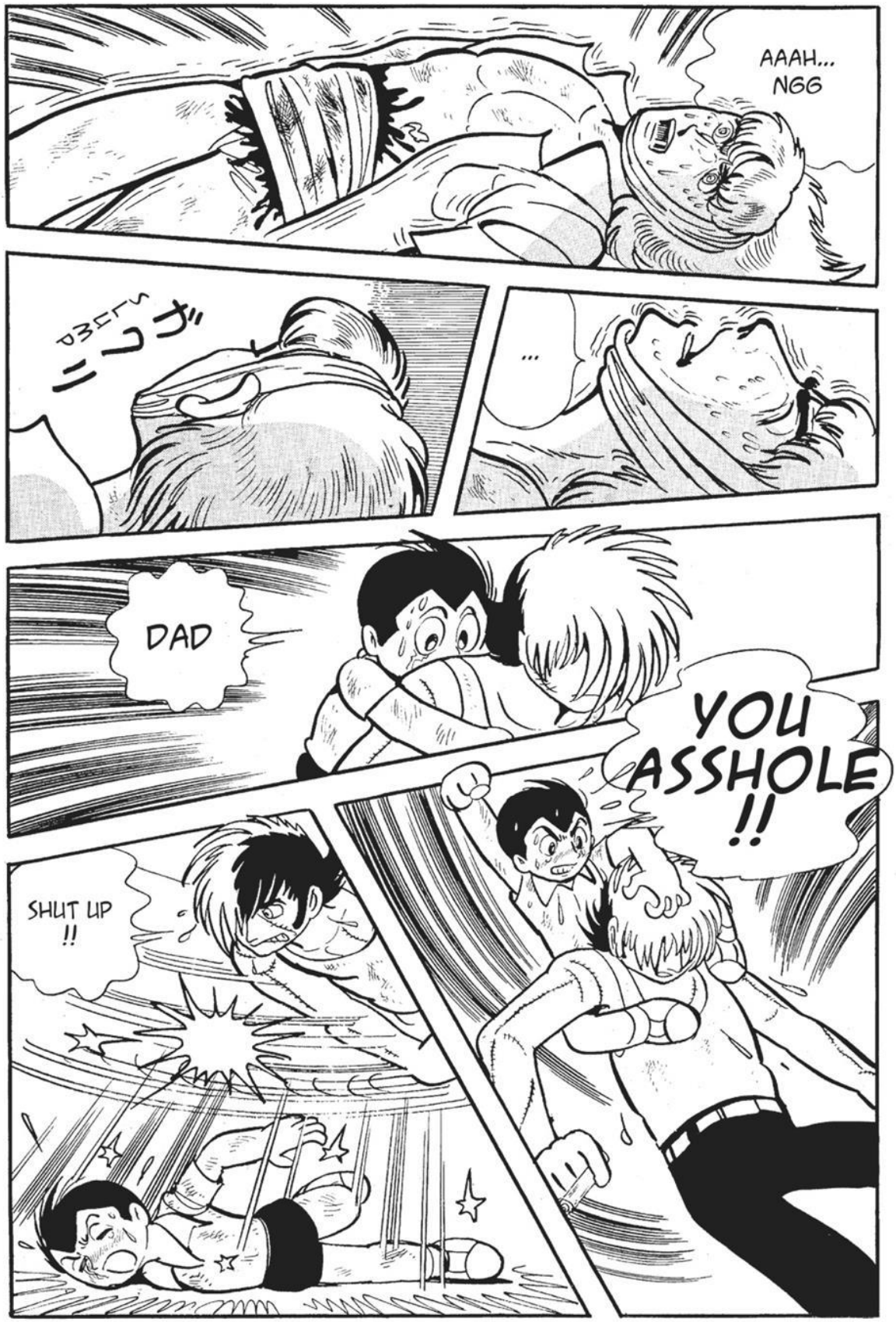
STUPID DOCTOR! IF YOU KILL DAD, THEN I'LL KILL YOU!
KILLER !!
THAT'S POISON, RIGHT?



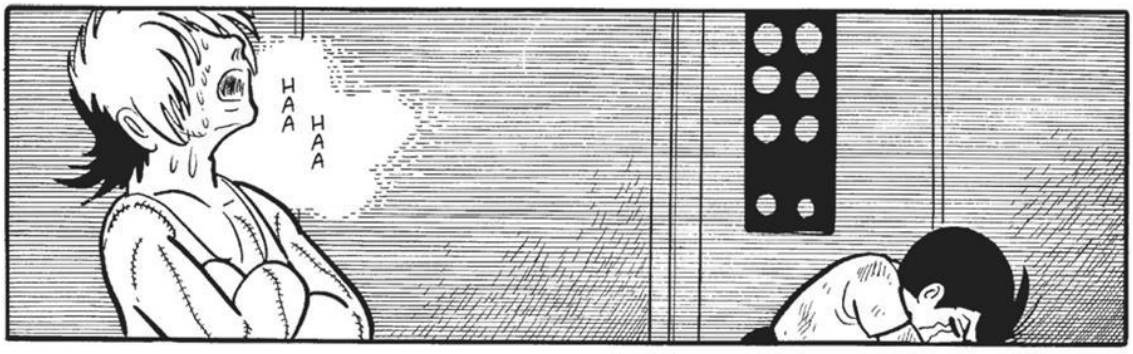
STOP THAT!!


PLEASE, NO!!
MOVE.




AAAH...
NGG
ニコッ
...
DAD
YOU ASSHOLE !!
SHUT UP !!

SLAP
SLAP
THUMP
DIE, YOU BASTARD!
IF THEY DON'T RESCUE US IN AN HOUR OR TWO, WE DIE TOO.
THIS IS A GAMBLE.
STOP CRYING. YOU'RE WASTING OXYGEN.
DAD... DAD!!
BE MY GUEST.
THE FIRST THING I'LL DO IS TELL THEM YOU KILLED DAD!
IF THEY RESCUE US,
MURDER-ER!


HAA HAA

WHEEZ
ゼーゼー

ハアハア
HAA

ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOM

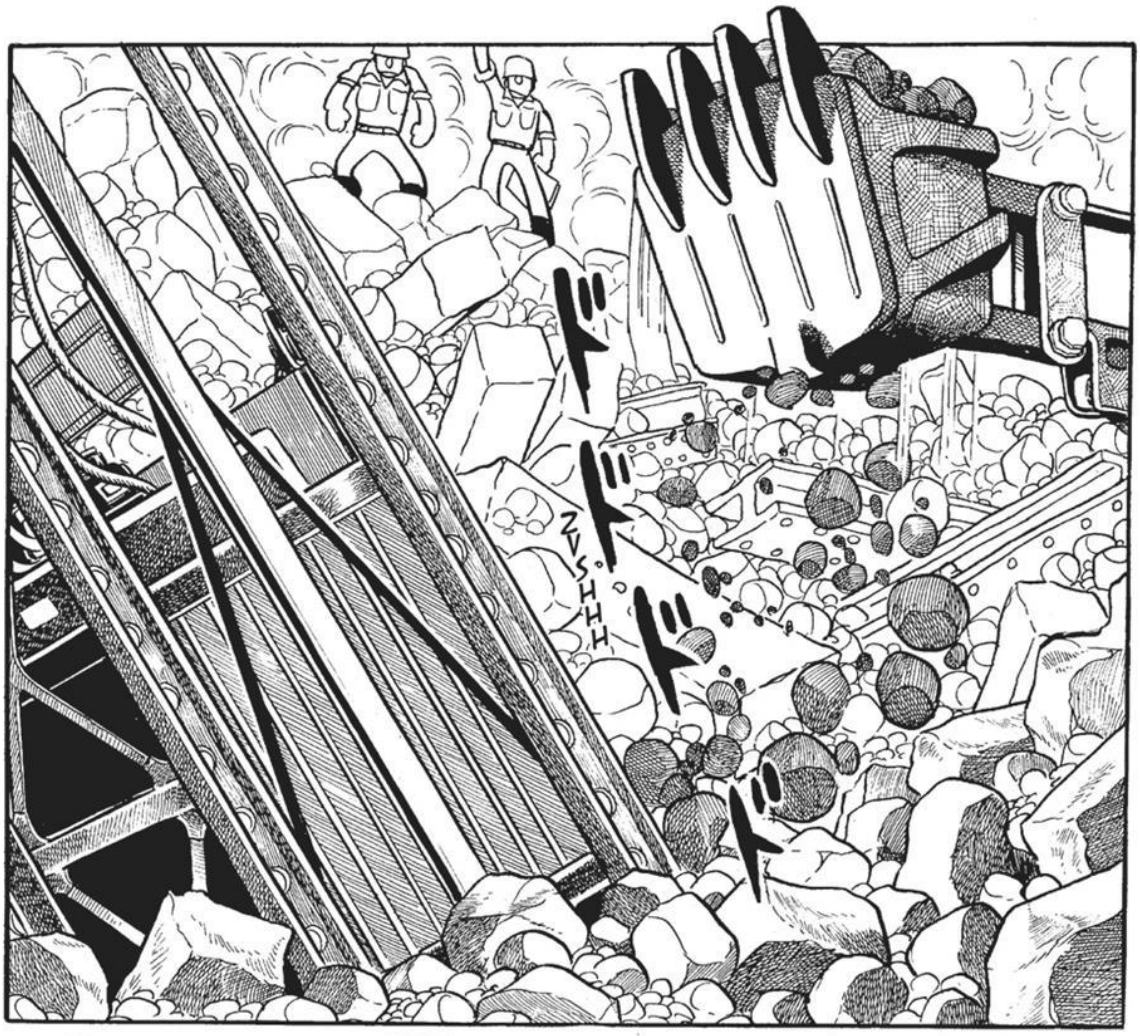
ZVSH

THE SOUND OF HELP !

THAT SOUND

GIVE IT A HEAR.

MMMMM!
STOP YELLING!
YOU'LL USE UP THE AIR, YOU FOOL!
HEY
HULLO
BAM BAM
UNTIL OUR LAST BREATH. RELAX.
WE JUST WAIT. WITH BATED BREATH.
HAA ...
HAA
HAA
ハーッ ハーッ ハーッ ハーッ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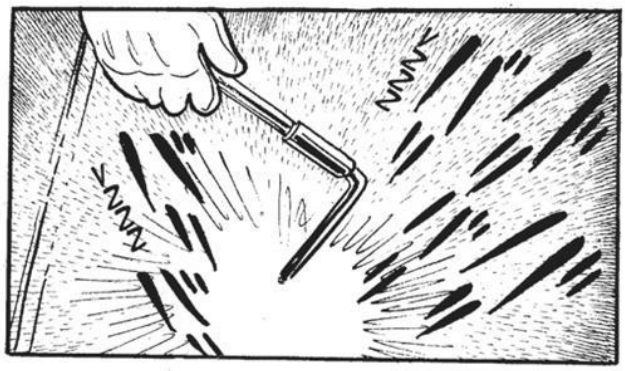
SEE ANYONE ?
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE READY TO GO IN !
ニタガ

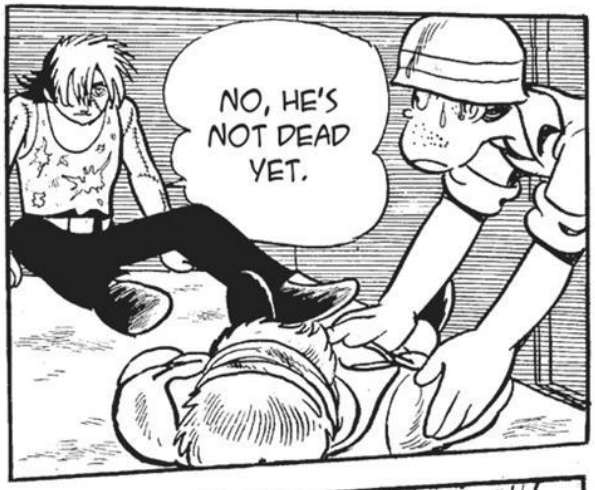


TWO ADULTS AND A CHILD. ONE LOOKS DEAD.

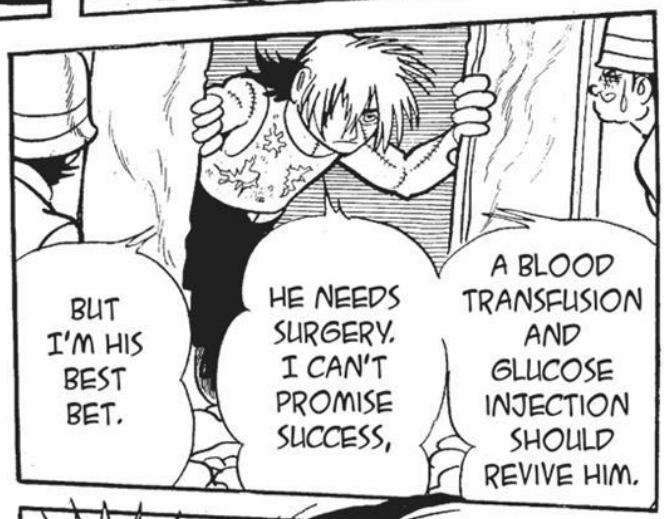
THAT GUY KILLED MY DAD! HE'S A KILLER !

LUCKY BOY,
YOU MADE IT!

IT WAS THE BEST WAY TO CUT DOWN ON HIS BREATHING.
I PUT HIM IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION WITH A LARGE DOSE OF INSULIN.


NO, HE'S NOT DEAD YET.

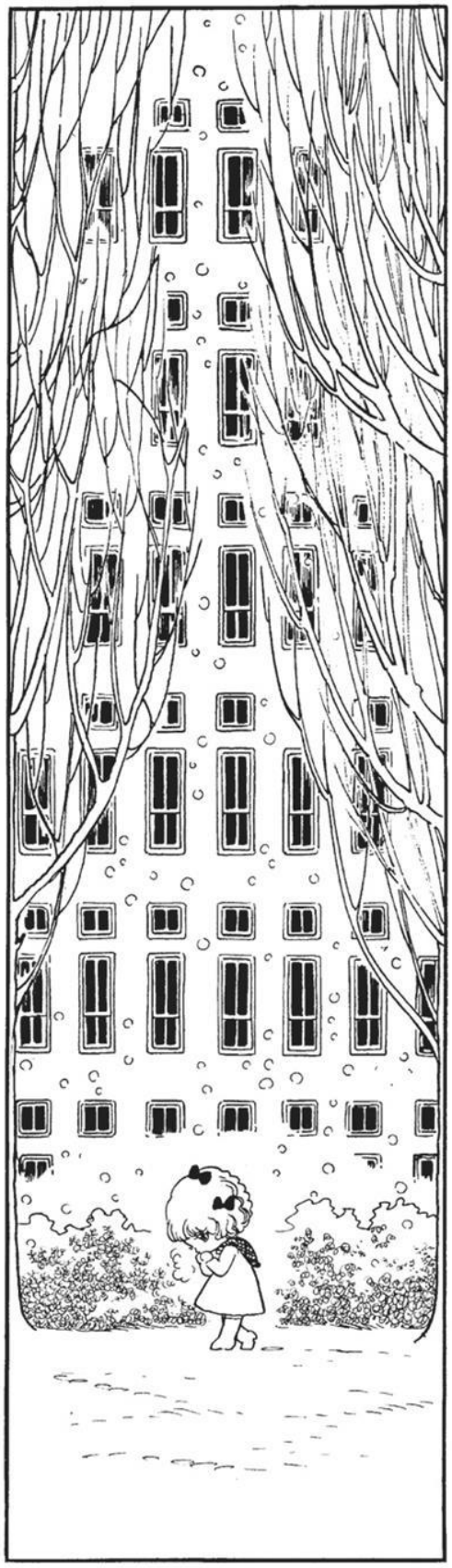
I'LL MAKE THE DEPARTMENT STORE PAY ME LOADS. AND I MEAN LOADS!
AS FOR MY FEES ...


BUT I'M HIS BEST BET.
HE NEEDS SURGERY. I CAN'T PROMISE SUCCESS,
A BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND GLUCOSE INJECTION SHOULD REVIVE HIM.

HE'S ALIVE ?!

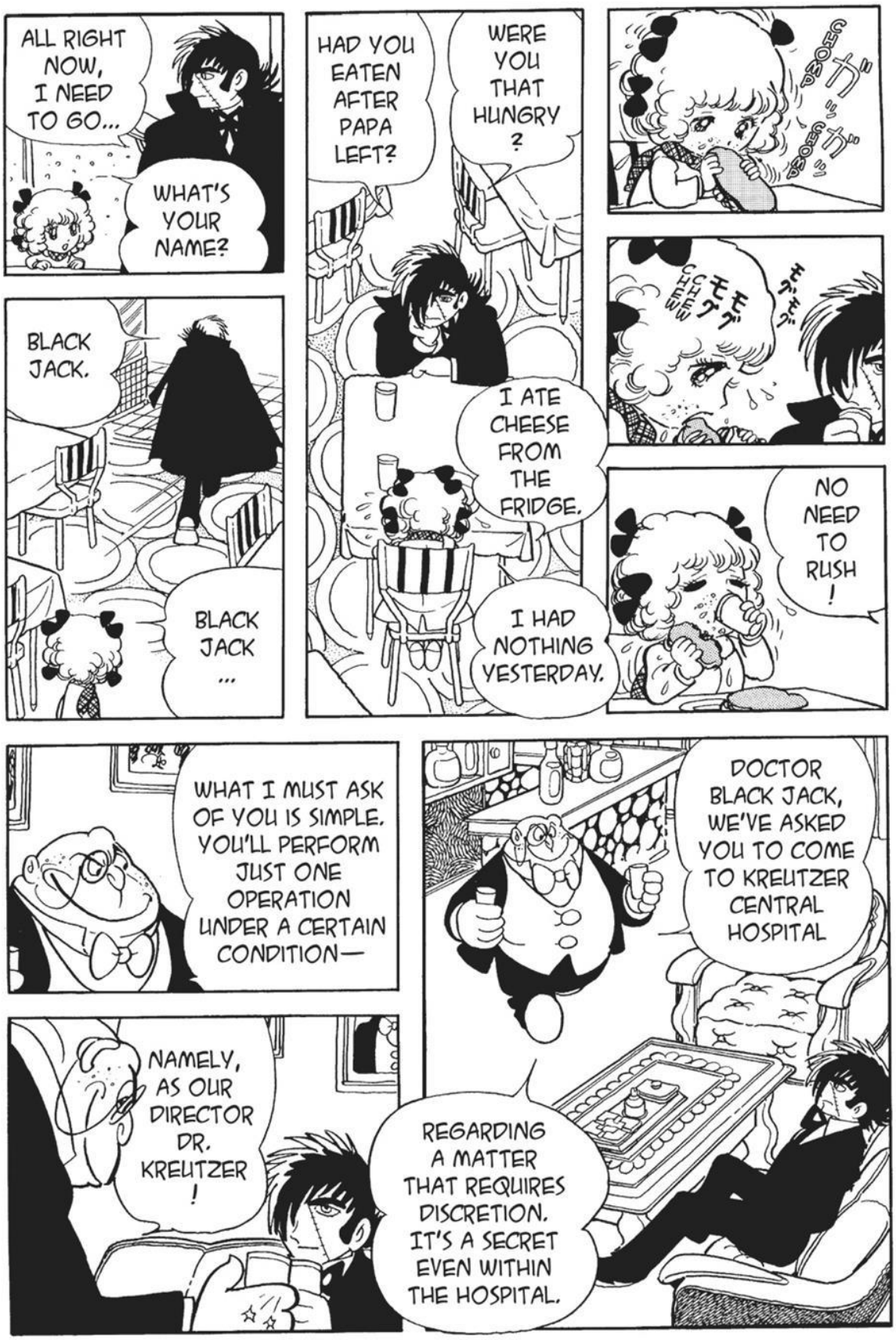
THE SUBSTITUTE

WHO'RE YOU WAITING FOR?



EEK
DON'T COME NEAR ME, DEVIL!
DEVILS WEAR BLACK CLOTHES AND ANGELS WEAR WHITE CLOTHES.
THE FATHER AT CHURCH SAID SO !
HA HA, I SEE.
LOOK WHAT YOU DID. WHY AM I A DEVIL ?

YES ...
IS THAT BLOOD ?
YOU WOULDN'T TALK TO A DEVIL ?
...
YOUR MAMA ?
GO AWAY! IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SEE MAMA.
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
YOU'RE HER PAPA?
SUSIE HATES PAPA.
YOU REMIND ME OF A GIRL I KNOW WELL.
WHY ARE YOU BEING NICE TO ME ?
LET'S GO GET COFFEE AND HOTDOGS.
IS THAT RIGHT? AND YOUR MAMA ?
AND HE HASN'T COME BACK.
NIGHT BEFORE LAST, HE LEFT WITH SOME LADY
MAMA SAYS A WHITE ANGEL WILL COME FOR HER, AND SHE'LL HAVE TO SAY BYE TO ME.
NONSENSE
SHE'S IN THIS HOSPITAL. THAT WINDOW.
SHE'S BEEN LIVING HERE.

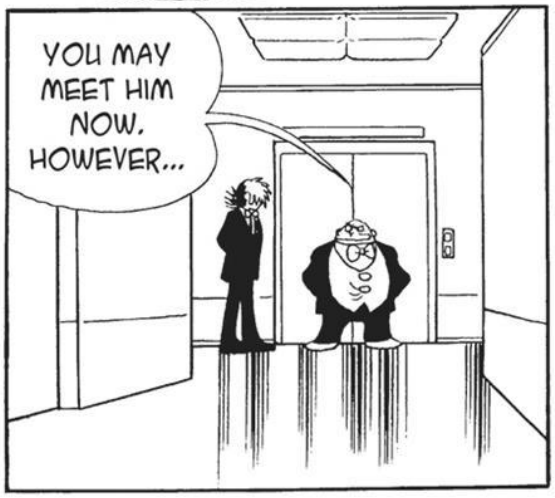

ALL RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO GO...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BLACK JACK.
BLACK JACK ...
HAD YOU EATEN AFTER PAPA LEFT?
WERE YOU THAT HUNGRY ?
I ATE CHEESE FROM THE FRIDGE.
I HAD NOTHING YESTERDAY.
ガ ガ
モグ モグ
NO NEED TO RUSH !
WHAT I MUST ASK OF YOU IS SIMPLE. YOU'LL PERFORM JUST ONE OPERATION UNDER A CERTAIN CONDITION—
NAMELY, AS OUR DIRECTOR DR. KREUTZER !
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, WE'VE ASKED YOU TO COME TO KREUTZER CENTRAL HOSPITAL
REGARDING A MATTER THAT REQUIRES DISCRETION. IT'S A SECRET EVEN WITHIN THE HOSPITAL.

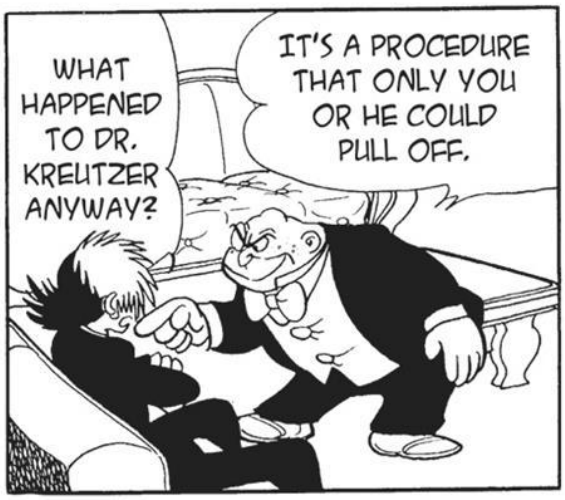
THIS IS HIM. HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU, NO?
YES.
"AS" HIM ?
HE'S THE WORLD'S BEST CANCER SURGEON ...
WHEN I SAW YOUR PHOTO, I DECIDED YOU WERE IT!
AH, THAT. THE DIRECTOR HAS BEEN IN A CAR ACCIDENT. YOU SEE, HE MIGHT HAVE JUST SUCH A SCAR.
WAIT A SEC.
AND YOU'RE A SURGICAL GENIUS OF GREAT RENOWN.
I THINK YOU'RE NUTS. HOW ABOUT THE SCAR ON MY FACE?
LOOK AT YOU! THE SPITTING IMAGE!
HERE

THEY WILL. YOUR ONLY APPEARANCE WOULD BE AT A PUBLIC SURGERY.

NO ONE WOULD EVER FALL FOR IT.
WHAT'S THIS, A ROAD SHOW ?

ENOUGH !

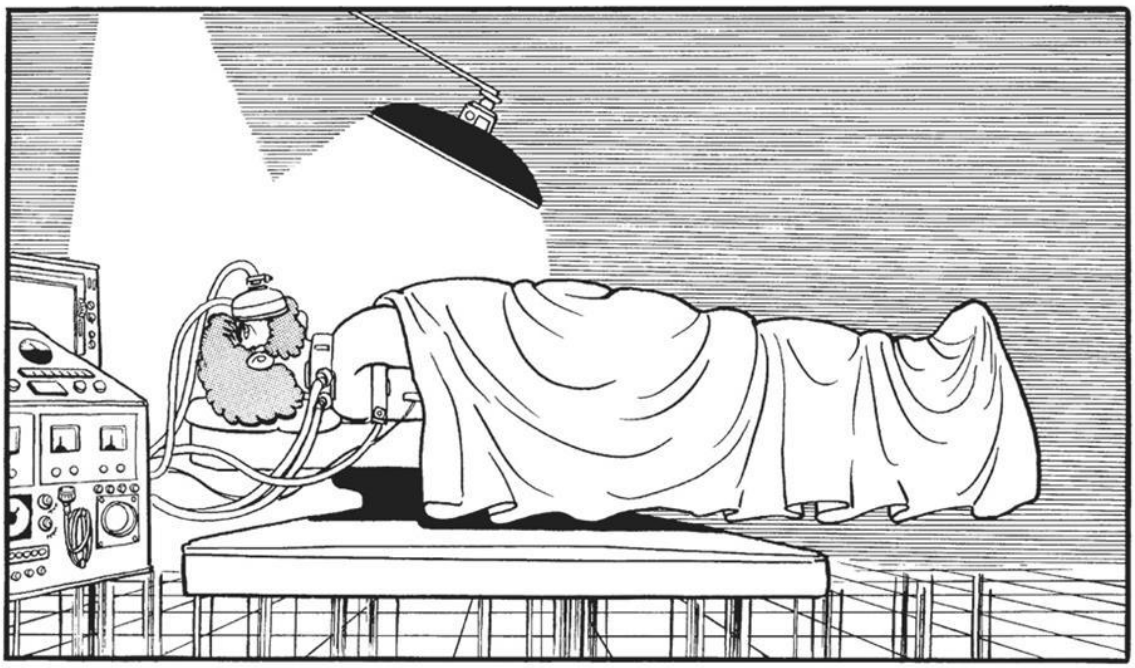

YOU MAY MEET HIM NOW. HOWEVER...


WHAT HAPPENED TO DR. KREUTZER ANYWAY?
IT'S A PROCEDURE THAT ONLY YOU OR HE COULD PULL OFF.

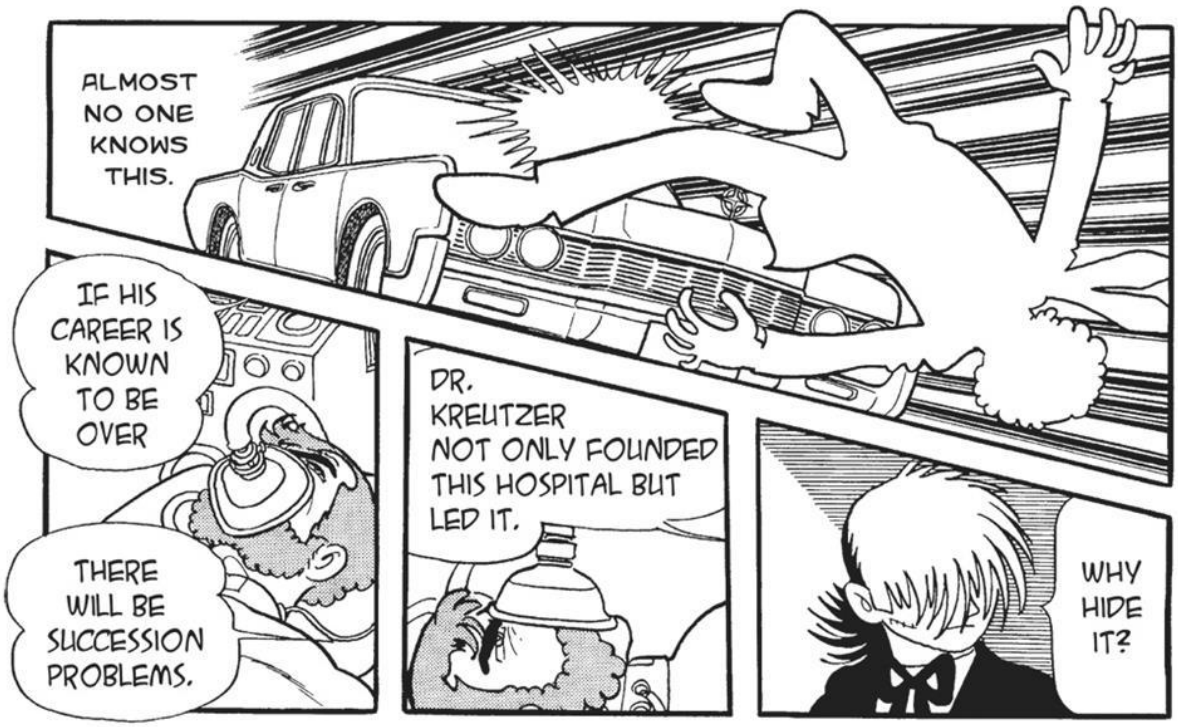
DOCTOR KREUTZER, DIRECTOR !

IT ALL HINGES ON NO ONE NOTICING.
THE WHOLE PLAN COMES APART.

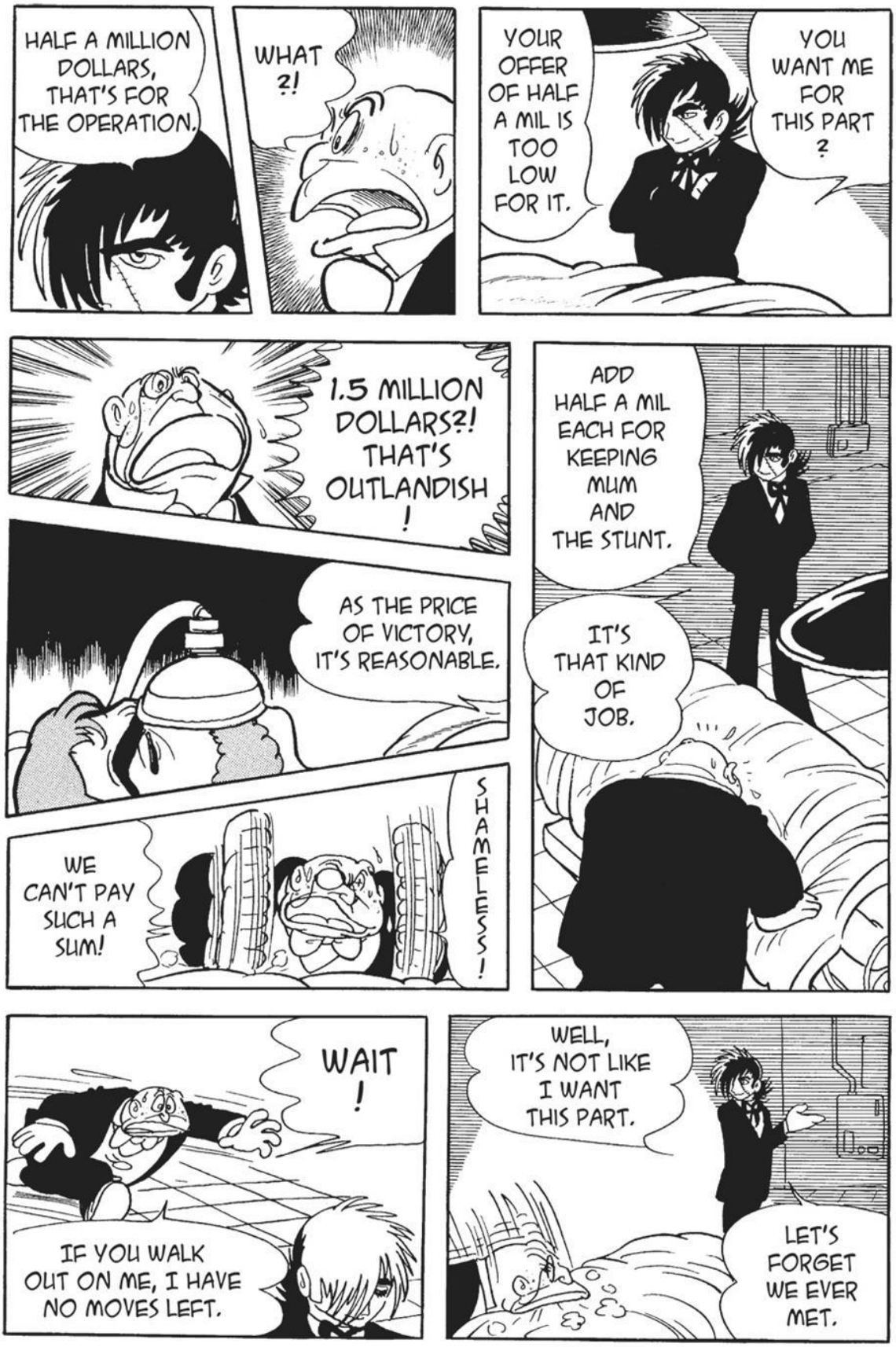
YOU MUST SWEAR SECRECY.
IF YOU TALK ABOUT THIS,



HE'S BEEN A "VEGETABLE."
FOR TWO MONTHS NOW


ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS THIS.
IF HIS CAREER IS KNOWN TO BE OVER
THERE WILL BE SUCCESSION PROBLEMS.
DR. KREUTZER NOT ONLY FOUNDED THIS HOSPITAL BUT LED IT.
WHY HIDE IT?

WE'VE BEEN SAYING THAT THE DIRECTOR IS RECUPERATING BY A SWISS LAKE
OUR HOSPITAL'S BOARD IS DIVIDED INTO TWO FACTIONS... ONE OF THEM, HAVING TAKEN IN THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WANTS HIM TO REPLACE DR. KREUTZER.
OUR SIDE HASN'T SETTLED ON A SUCCESSOR YET.
SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO PUT ON A LITTLE SHOW.
ONCE WE DO, THE FIGHT CAN BEGIN.
BUT HE HAS TO SHOW UP FOR TOMORROW'S OPERATION.
BUT IF THIS GETS OUT FIRST, WE'RE DONE FOR.
INDEED. YOU PLAY HIM FOR ONE DAY, THEN EXIT OUT THE BACK.


HALF A MILLION DOLLARS, THAT'S FOR THE OPERATION.
WHAT ?!
YOUR OFFER OF HALF A MIL IS TOO LOW FOR IT.
YOU WANT ME FOR THIS PART ?
1.5 MILLION DOLLARS?! THAT'S OUTLANDISH !
ADD HALF A MIL EACH FOR KEEPING MUM AND THE STUNT.
AS THE PRICE OF VICTORY, IT'S REASONABLE.
IT'S THAT KIND OF JOB.
WE CAN'T PAY SUCH A SUM!
SHAMELESS!
WAIT !
IF YOU WALK OUT ON ME, I HAVE NO MOVES LEFT.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT THIS PART.
LET'S FORGET WE EVER MET.

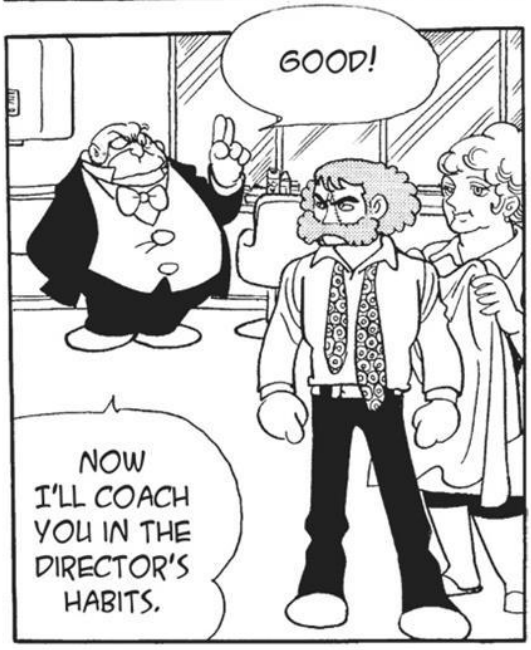
BUT YOU'RE A JERK !
O-OKAY, I'LL GATHER THE MONEY FROM MY GUYS.

A MILLION DOLLARS!
THERE.

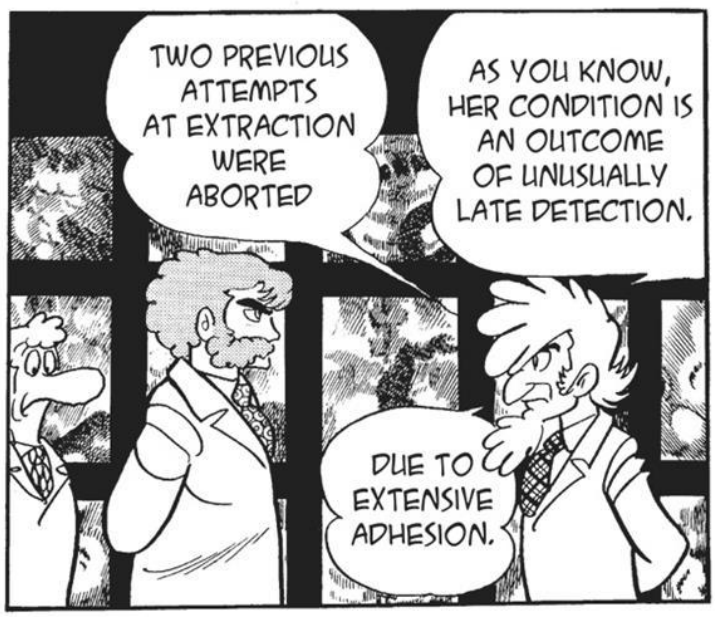
I'M NOT FOND OF DISGUISES.
I'M A DOCTOR, NOT AN ACTOR.

HUNCH OVER A LITTLE. SMALLER STEPS !
NICE. YOU'RE PRETTY TALENTED, AREN'T YOU ?
NEXT, HIS SPEECH ...

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION. THEY'D SURMISE THE TRUTH.


GOOD!
NOW I'LL COACH YOU IN THE DIRECTOR'S HABITS.

HOW WAS SWITZER-LAND?
WELCOME BACK.
NOW FOR SOME TESTING ...
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK ?!
AH, JUST LAST NIGHT.
IT'S THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR !
DR KREUTZER!
MAY I ASSUME YOU'RE RETURNING TO SWITZERLAND AFTER TODAY?
AH, I AM.
RIGHT. IT'S YET TO HEAL.
IS THAT SCAR ...


TWO PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT EXTRACTION WERE ABORTED
AS YOU KNOW, HER CONDITION IS AN OUTCOME OF UNUSUALLY LATE DETECTION.
DUE TO EXTENSIVE ADHESION.

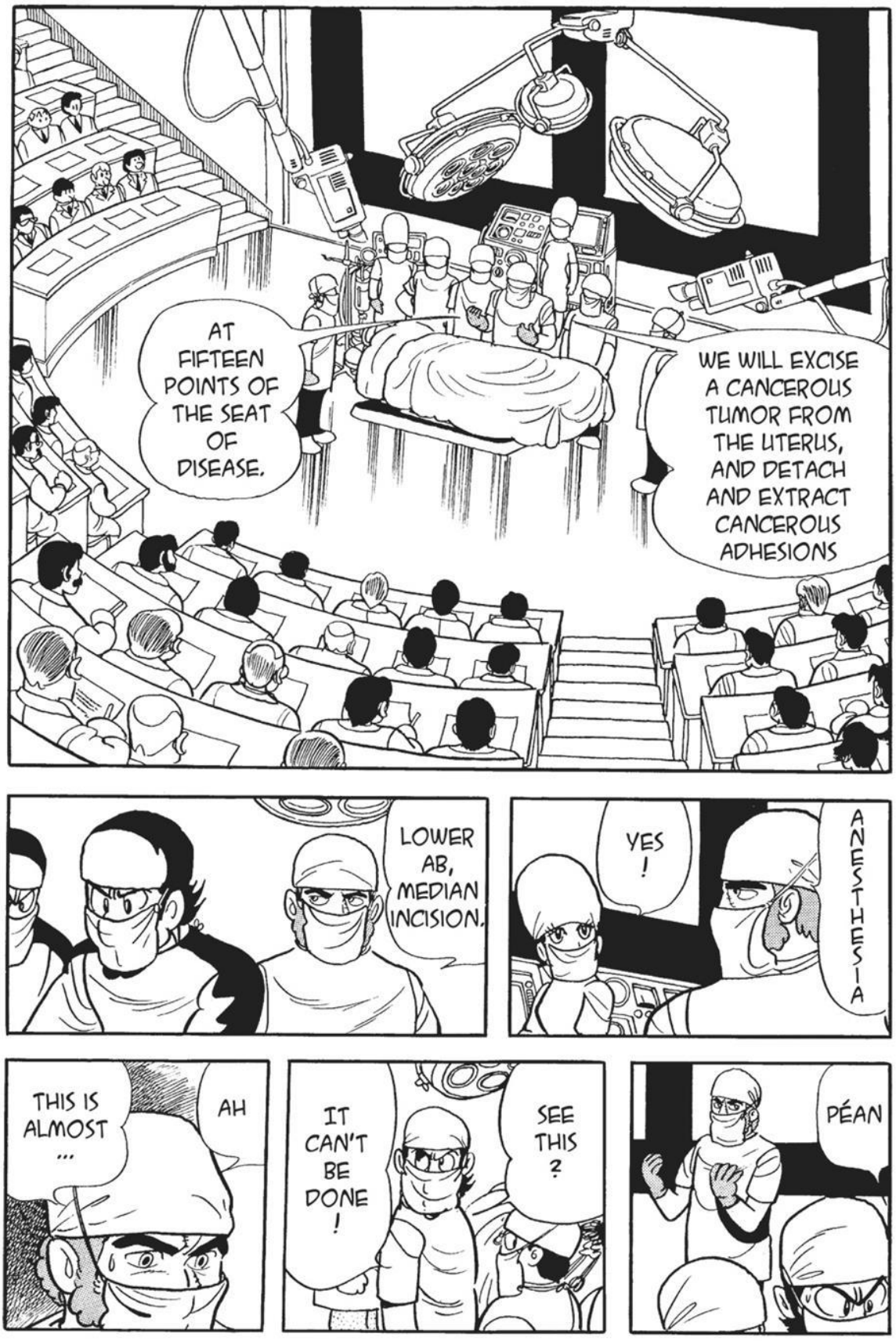
AGE 42, PAROUS. SEAT OF DISEASE: UTERUS, BLADDER, VAGINA, AND PERITONEUM.
STAGE 4 METASTASIS

REMOVING THE FOCUS COULD DAMAGE NERVES AND MAJOR ARTERIES!
BUT UNLESS WE TRY AGAIN, ONE WEEK IS THE MOST SHE HAS.

IS SOMEONE TRYING TO SUB FOR HIM?
RUMOR HAS IT HE WAS NO GOOD AFTER THE ACCIDENT.
WE'LL KNOW WHEN HE OPERATES.

YES, LITERALLY ...
HE SEEMS LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN.

IN AN HOUR.
WHEN DO WE BEGIN?
FINE. GET READY.


AT FIFTEEN POINTS OF THE SEAT OF DISEASE.
WE WILL EXCISE A CANCEROUS TUMOR FROM THE UTERUS, AND DETACH AND EXTRACT CANCEROUS ADHESIONS
LOWER AB, MEDIAN INCISION.
YES !
ANESTHESIA
THIS IS ALMOST ...
AH
IT CAN'T BE DONE !
SEE THIS ?
PÉAN

THIS IS WHY WE HAD TO GIVE UP AFTER HAVING OPENED HER UP... EVEN THE PERITONEAL VESSELS AND ARTERIAL TRUNK ARE ADHERED.
IT'S BEYOND US.
A NEST OF CANCER.
UM... ARE YOU SERIOUS?
THIS WILL TAKE ME HALF AN HOUR.
SO SPEEDY, AND YET SO PRECISE!
AMAZING!
WHISK
WHISK
WHISK
WOW, THE BLOOD VESSEL ...
WHISK
PLAP

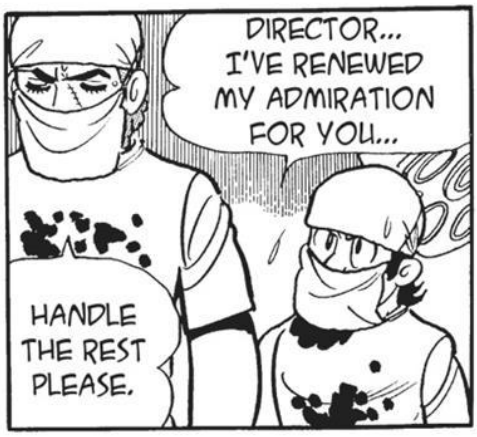
FORCEPS
THIS IS DIVINE ...
SEVEN EXCISIONS ALREADY.

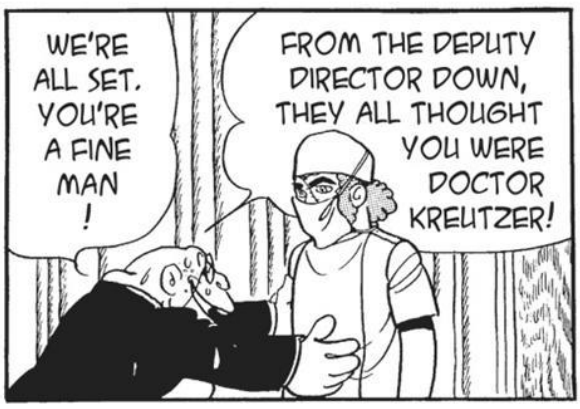
DOCTOR, LAST SPOT!
MEXAN!
HMM, 25 MINUTES SHARP.

SUDDEN DROP IN BLOOD PRESSURE...

BRAVO, BRAVO !
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

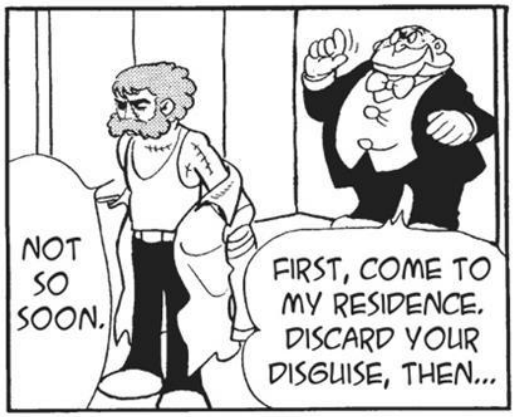
HE'S NO SUBSTITUTE. HE'S THE ONE AND ONLY DR. K!
SUTURE FOR ME.


DIRECTOR... I'VE RENEWED MY ADMIRATION FOR YOU...
HANDLE THE REST PLEASE.


WE'RE ALL SET. YOU'RE A FINE MAN !
FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOWN, THEY ALL THOUGHT YOU WERE DOCTOR KREUTZER!

A SMASHING SUCCESS !

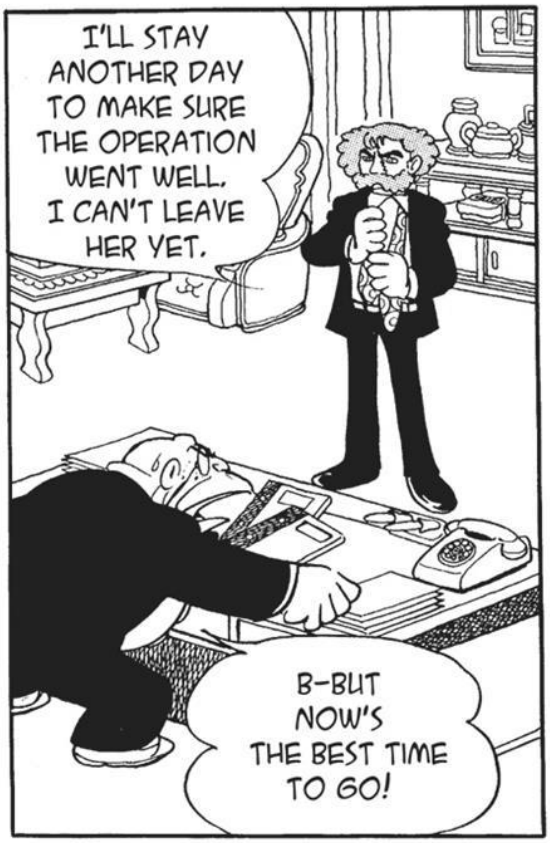
HUH ?!


NOT SO SOON.
FIRST, COME TO MY RESIDENCE. DISCARD YOUR DISGUISE, THEN...

YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.
THANK YOU !

DON'T YOU SEE ?
WE DON'T WANT TO PUSH THIS ...

I'VE GOT MY RULES.
CAN'T OBLIGE.
AT YER RULES

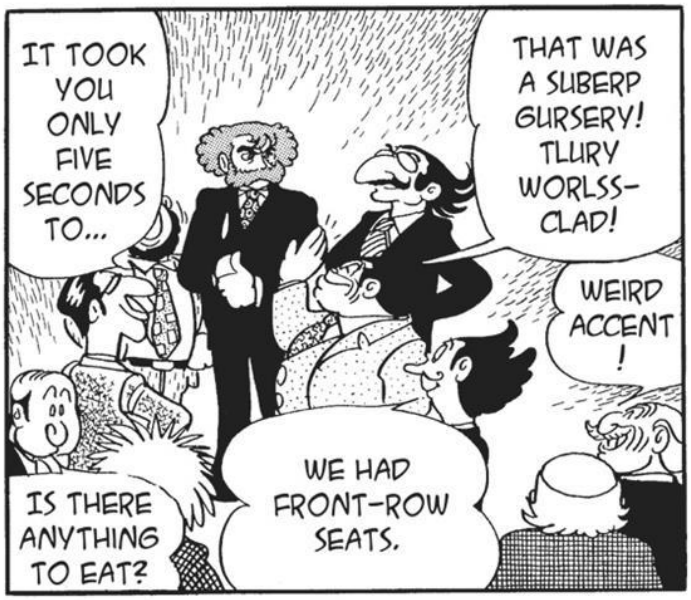

I'LL STAY ANOTHER DAY TO MAKE SURE THE OPERATION WENT WELL. I CAN'T LEAVE HER YET.
B-BUT NOW'S THE BEST TIME TO GO!

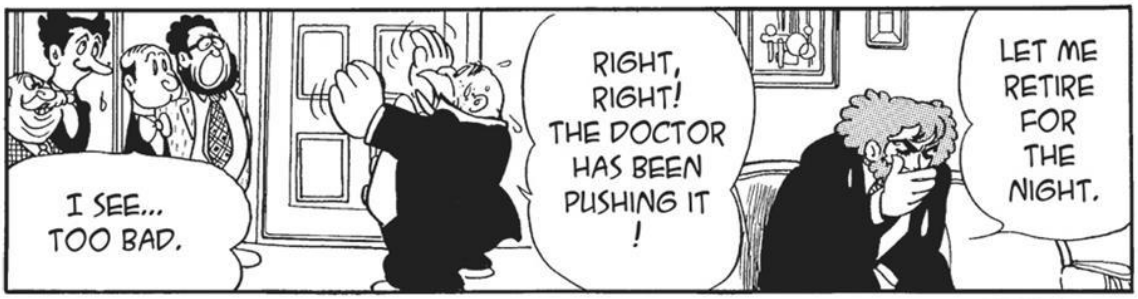
I TOLD YOU JUST ONE DAY !
THAT'S TOO RISKY !
THEN LEAVE.
I'LL EXAMINE HER, SEE THAT SHE'S FINE, GIVE SOME INSTRUCTIONS,
I'M A DOCTOR. IT'S MY DUTY.
OTHERS CAN DO THAT!
HER HEART MAY ALSO NEED EXTRA CARE.
WE HAVE TO WATCH FOR LUNG EDEMAS.
IF YOUR PLAN WORKS, YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HER ?
I DO NOT! WHAT MATTERS MOST IS—
HOW DARE YOU EVEN SAY THAT?
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT PATIENT?! DON'T MESS UP MY PLAN !!

AH, HERE YOU ARE !

KNOK
KNOK

NO, I'M JUST... TIRED.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? WE GRADUATED THE SAME YEAR...

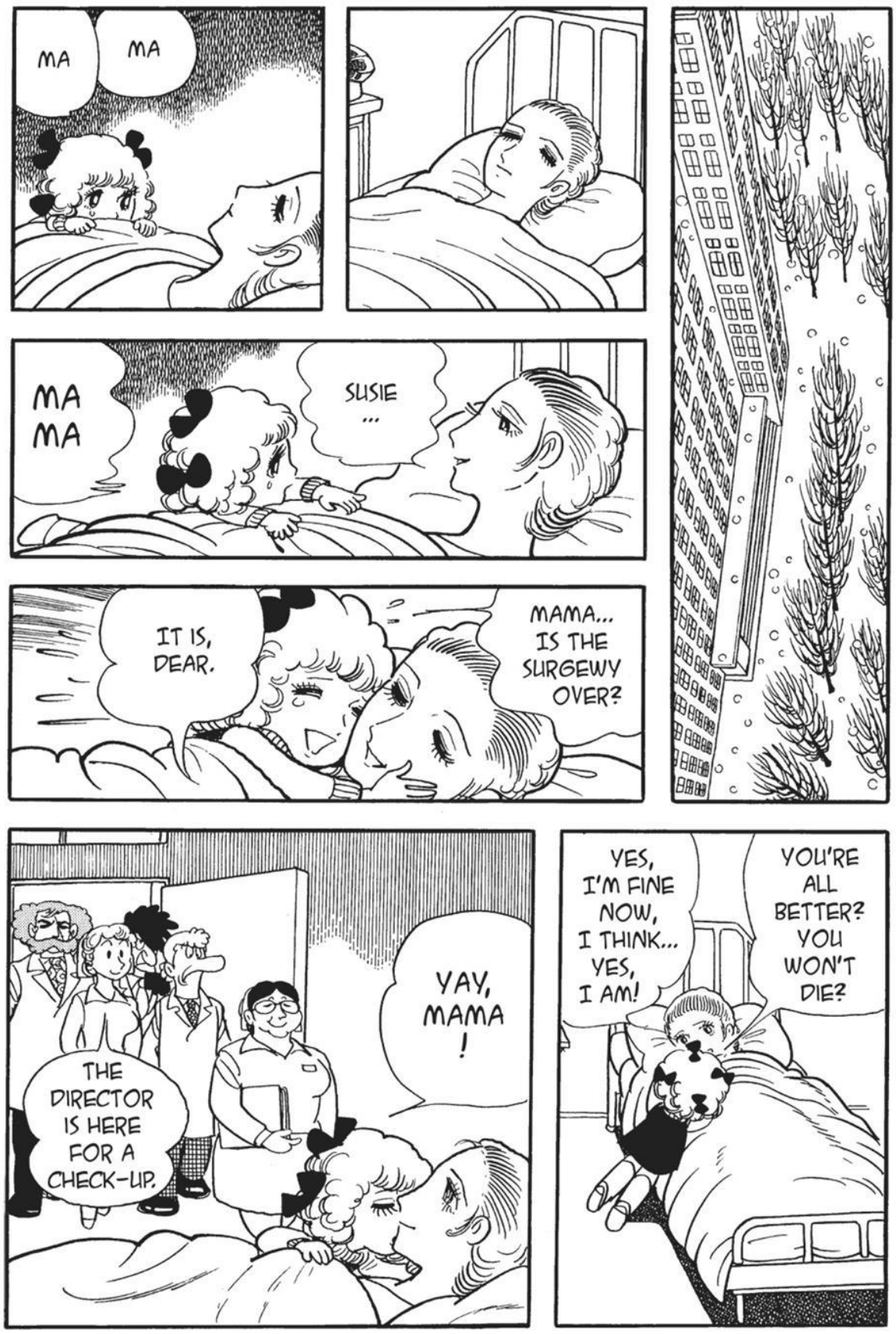

IT TOOK YOU ONLY FIVE SECONDS TO...
THAT WAS A SUBERP GURSERY! TLURY WORLSS-CLAD!
WEIRD ACCENT !
IS THERE ANYTHING TO EAT?
WE HAD FRONT-ROW SEATS.


I SEE... TOO BAD.
RIGHT, RIGHT! THE DOCTOR HAS BEEN PUSHING IT !
LET ME RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT.

PHEW

TAKE CARE, NOW!
YOUR VOICE DOES SOUND DIFFERENT.

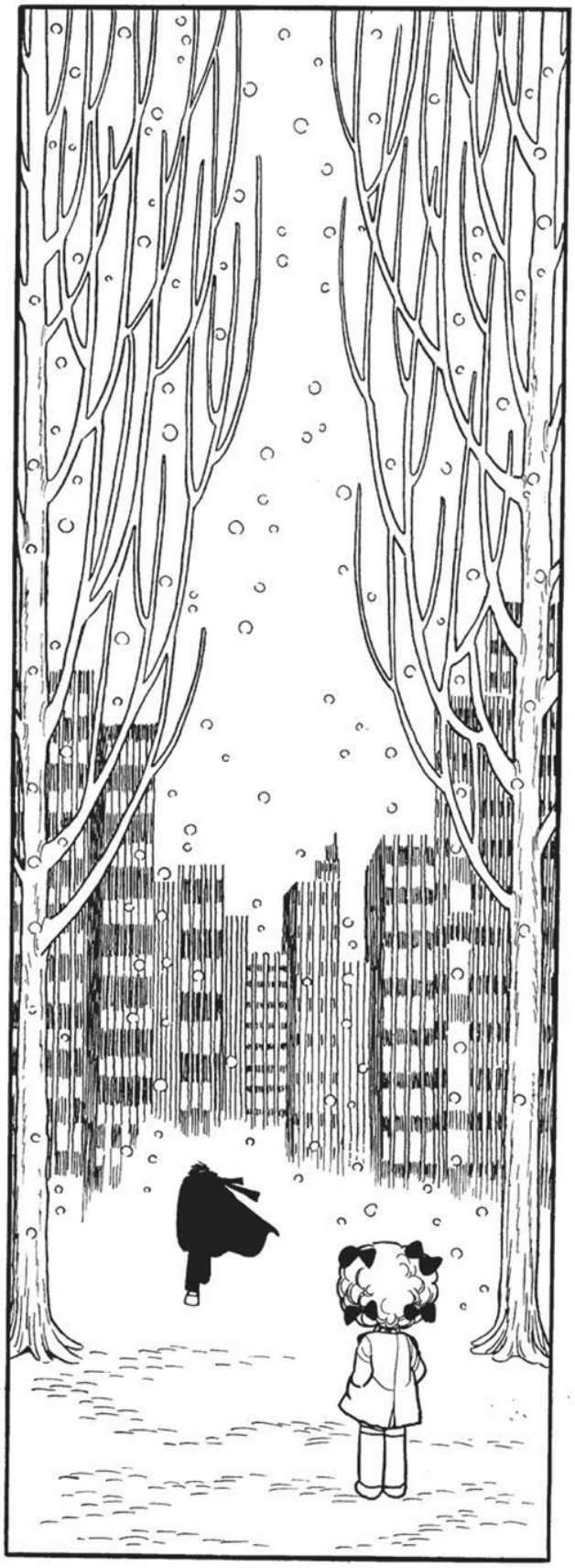
IF YOU DON'T LEAVE NOW, THERE'LL BE TROUBLE!
YOU SEE? THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE MORE VISITORS.
WHOEVER SHOWS UP, I'M SLEEPING LIKE THE DEAD.
IN FACT, TELL THEM I'M DEAD.
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
YOU'RE RIGHT. AND I REALLY AM TIRED.
MGG
SNORR
BLEGH
"MUNCH" "MUNCH"
I WAS EATING MY FAKE MUSTACHE ...

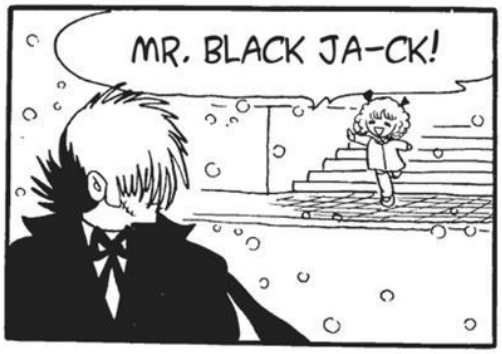

MA
MA
MA MA
SUSIE ...
IT IS, DEAR.
MAMA... IS THE SURGEWY OVER?
THE DIRECTOR IS HERE FOR A CHECK-UP.
YAY, MAMA !
YES, I'M FINE NOW, I THINK... YES, I AM!
YOU'RE ALL BETTER? YOU WON'T DIE?

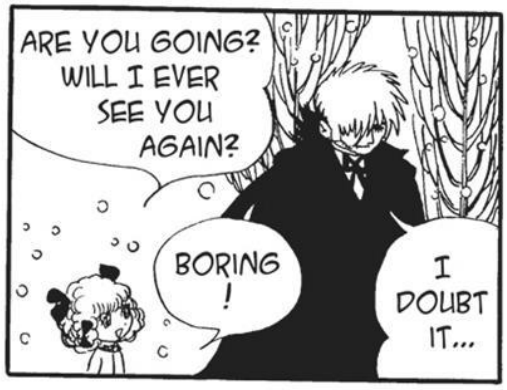
GOOD, GOOD.
PULSE AND BLOOD PRESSURE STEADY.
DOCTOR, THANK YOU SO MUCH ...
TELL HIM THANK YOU !
SUSIE, HE'S THE MAN WHO CURED ME.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR !!

HE TREATED ME TO SOME NICE HOTDOGS !!
HA HA, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT MUSTACHE,
...
HE GOT THAT CUT YESTERDAY !
I KNOW HIM!
MISTER BLACK JACK?
SUSIE EVEN KNOWS HIS NAME !
BLACK JACK ?
I DON'T THINK SO! I REMEMBER THE CUT ON HIS FINGER.
MISS, THIS IS DOCTOR KREUTZER. DIRECTOR KREUTZER.

BUT YOU LOOKED NICER WITHOUT A MUSTACHE !
YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE ELSE BECAUSE YOU'RE REALLY A DEVIL !
RIGHT... THIS SHOW IS OVER.
FRAUD!
WHAT WAS THE GUY THINKING?
WE OUGHT TO SUE HIM!
THE DIRECTOR, A FAKE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IS THIS SOME JOKE ?
I'M DONE FOR !
IF HE'D ONLY LEFT LAST NIGHT !
BASTARD!
I WON'T PAY HIM ONE CENT!



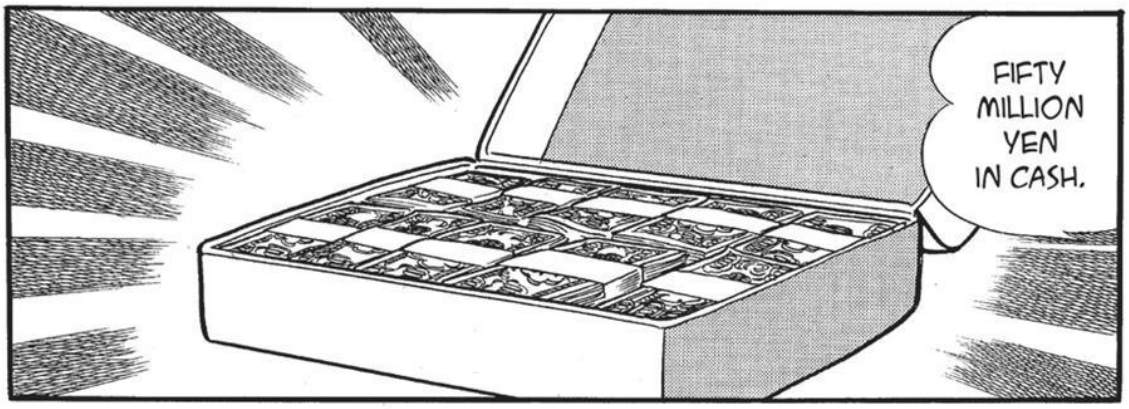

MR. BLACK JA-CK!

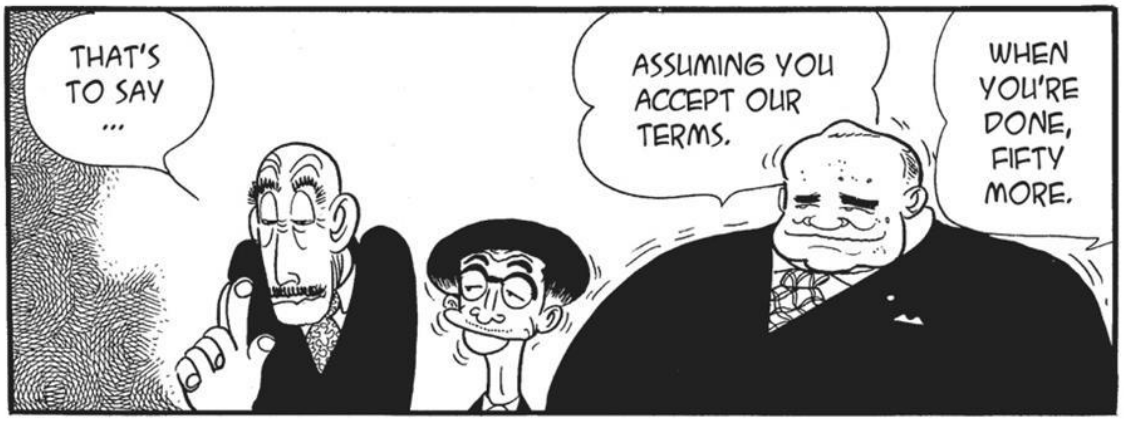

ARE YOU GOING? WILL I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN?
BORING!
I DOUBT IT...

MAY I ASK SOMETHING?

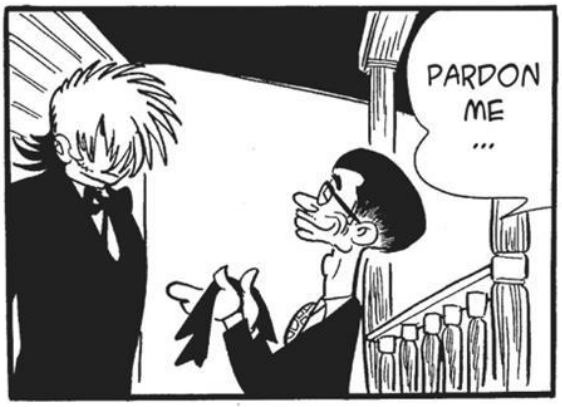
WHY DID YOU HELP MAMA WHEN YOU'RE A DEVIL?

TERROR VIRUS


FIFTY MILLION YEN IN CASH.

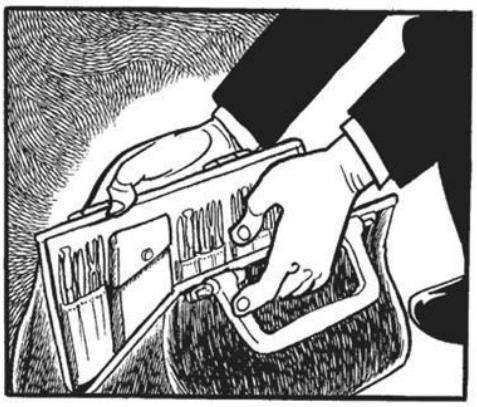

THAT'S TO SAY ...
ASSUMING YOU ACCEPT OUR TERMS.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, FIFTY MORE.

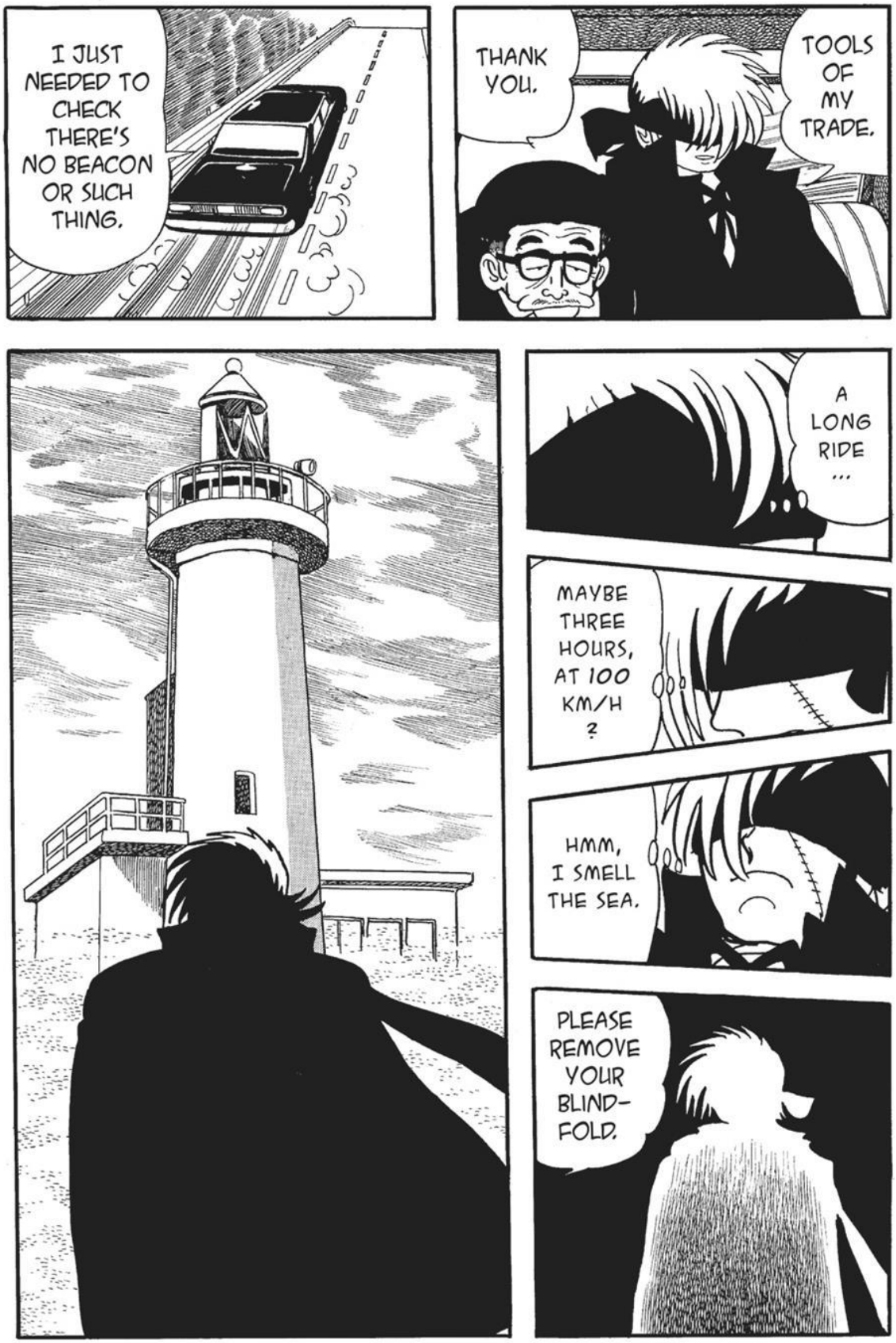
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT.
FINE. I'LL BE BLINDFOLDED UNTIL WE GET THERE. I WON'T DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ANYBODY.


PARDON ME ...

SO YOU ACCEPT ?

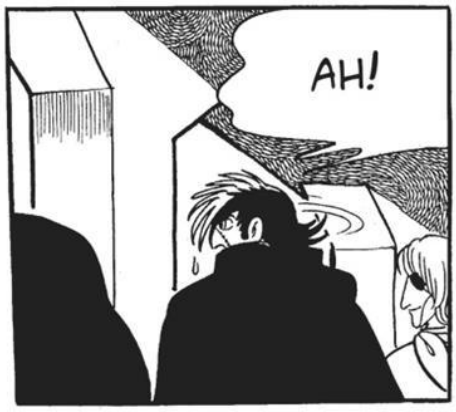
ALLOW ME TO INSPECT YOUR BAG.

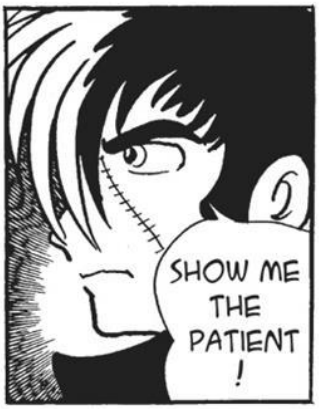



I JUST NEEDED TO CHECK THERE'S NO BEACON OR SUCH THING.
THANK YOU.
TOOLS OF MY TRADE.
A LONG RIDE ...
MAYBE THREE HOURS, AT 100 KM/H ?
HMM, I SMELL THE SEA.
PLEASE REMOVE YOUR BLIND-FOLD.

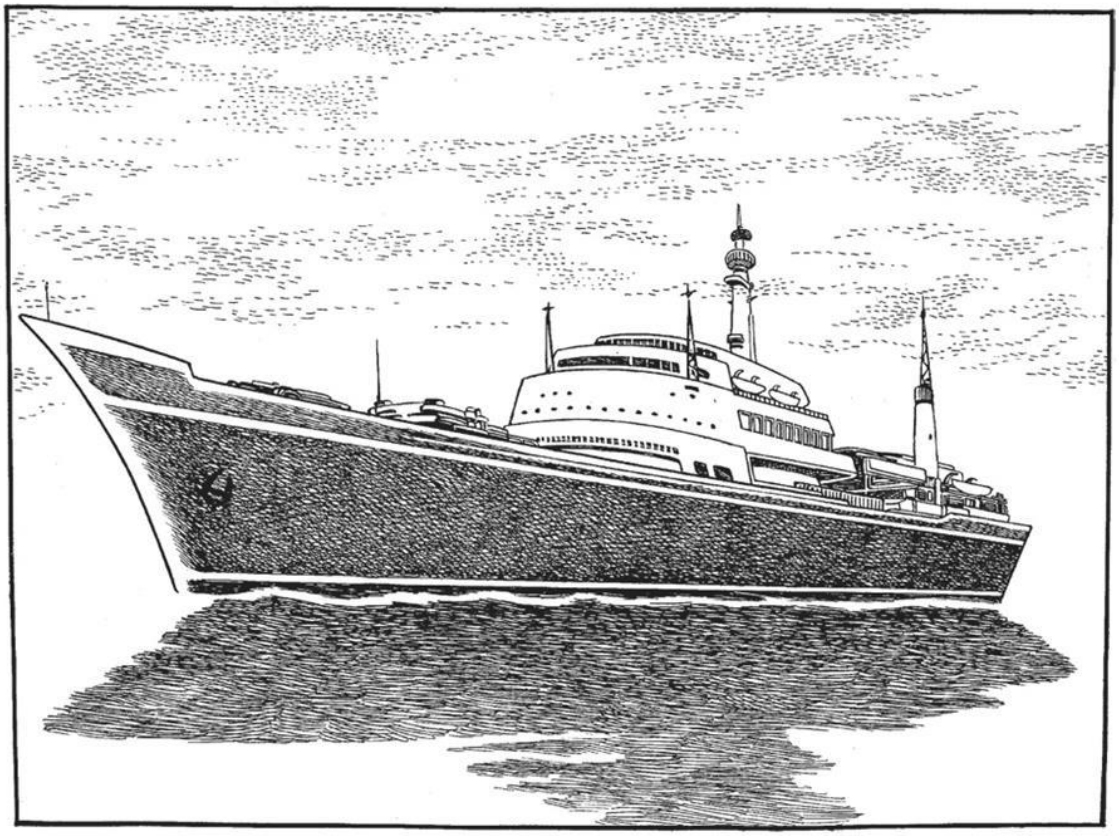
BLACK JACK... YOU'RE HERE TOO?
I'M AFRAID THE GENIUS SURGEON IS NO USE THIS TIME AROUND.
DOCTOR KIRIKO! WHY ARE YOU HERE ?
THEY CALL HIM THE REAPER'S AVATAR!
WHY NOT? SAME DEAL AS YOU.
I DON'T ALWAYS KILL, ALL RIGHT? I CURE THEM WHEN I CAN. I'M STILL A DOCTOR.

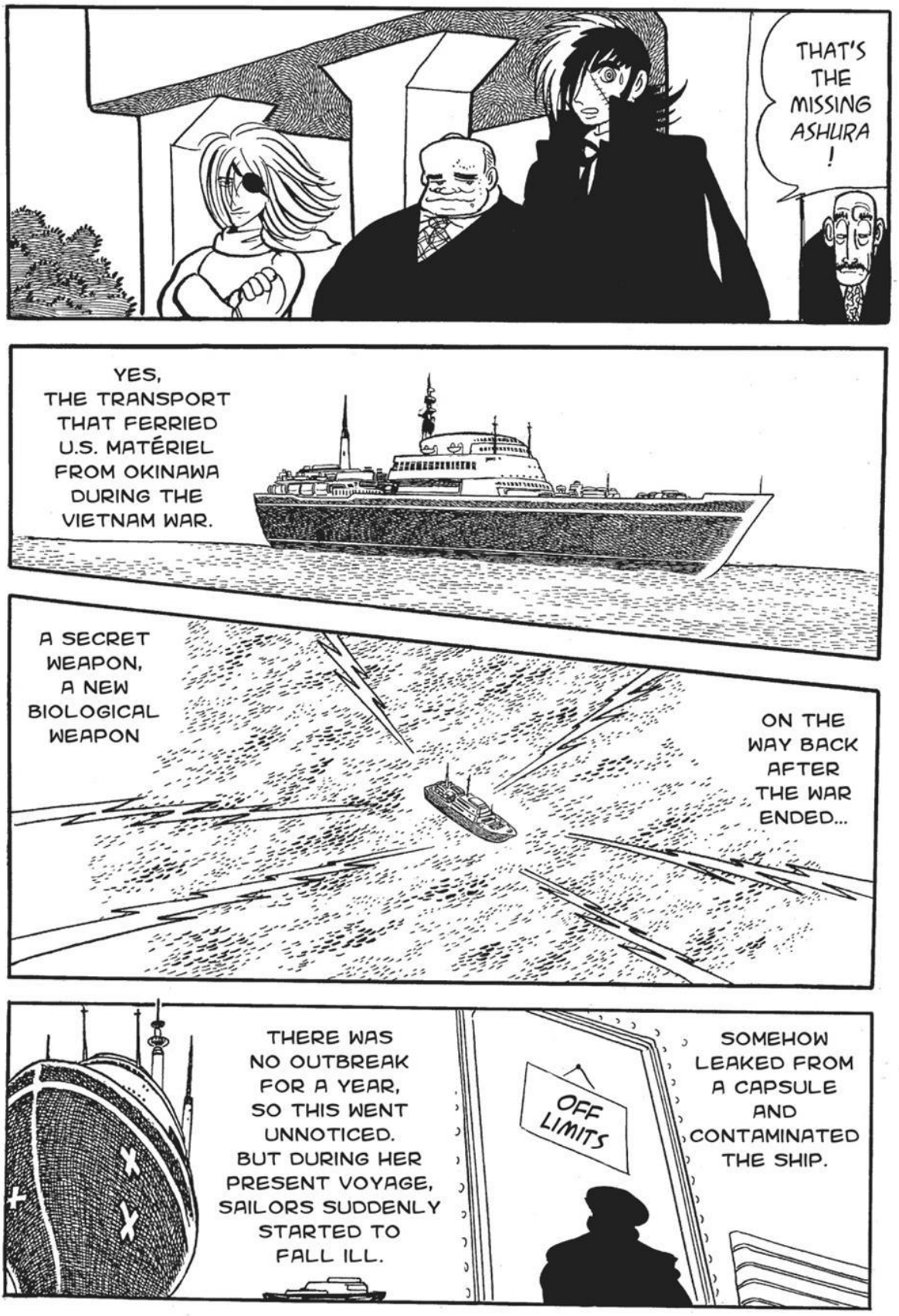
YEAH, AND THIS TIME I'M HERE TO HEAL.
AHEM. LET ME TELL YOU, WE KNOW QUITE WELL THAT THE PRACTICE ISN'T LEGAL.
IF IT'S A TOUGH CASE, HE TURNS EASILY TO EUTHANASIA !


AH!


SHOW ME THE PATIENT !

BUT IT SURE WON'T BE EASY.

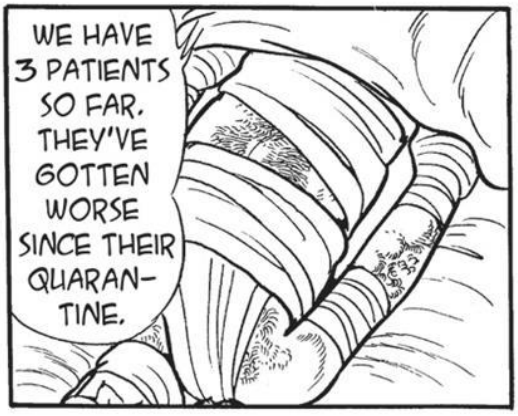


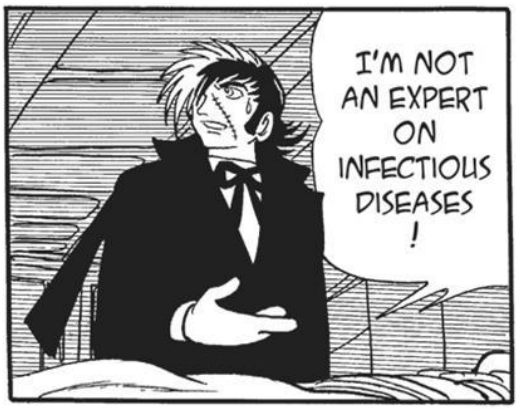

THAT'S THE MISSING ASHURA !
YES, THE TRANSPORT THAT FERRIED U.S. MATÉRIEL FROM OKINAWA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.
A SECRET WEAPON, A NEW BIOLOGICAL WEAPON
ON THE WAY BACK AFTER THE WAR ENDED...
THERE WAS NO OUTBREAK FOR A YEAR, SO THIS WENT UNNOTICED. BUT DURING HER PRESENT VOYAGE, SAILORS SUDDENLY STARTED TO FALL ILL.
OFF LIMITS
SOMEHOW LEAKED FROM A CAPSULE AND CONTAMINATED THE SHIP.

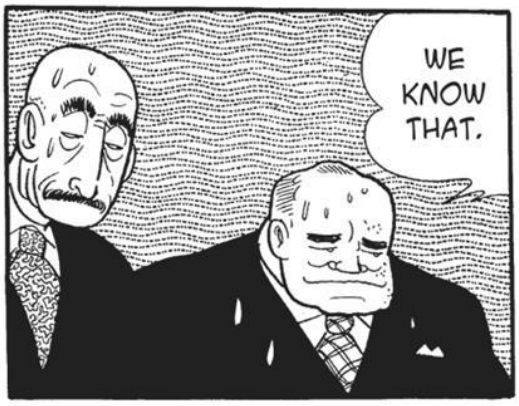
!

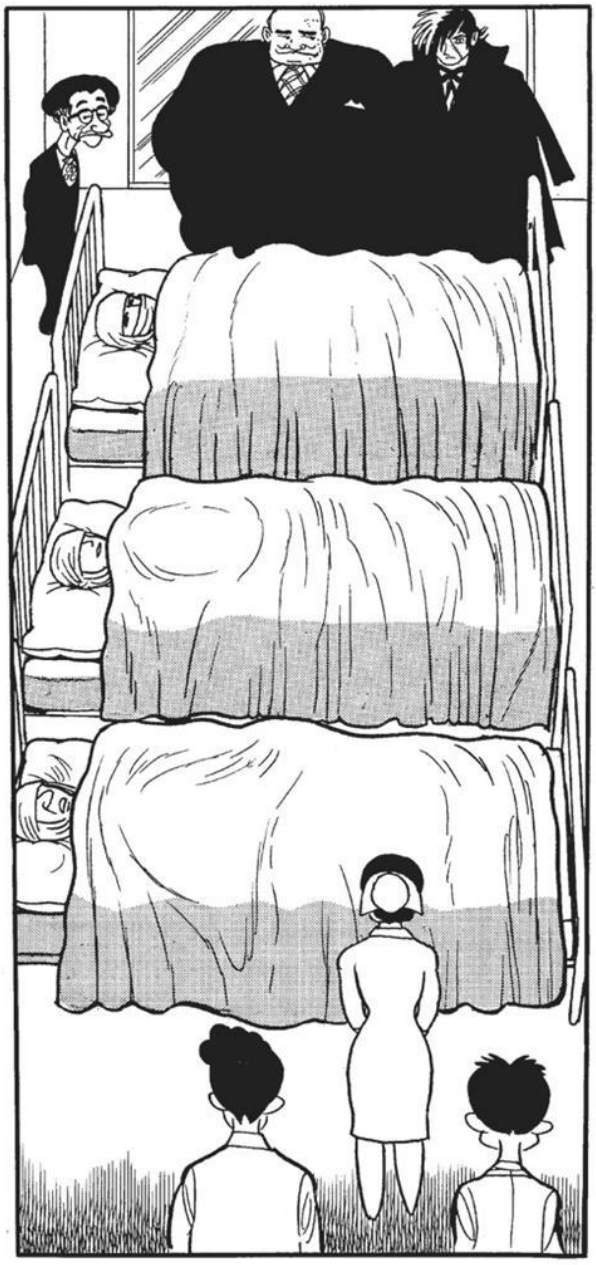
HERE ?

WHERE ARE THEY ?

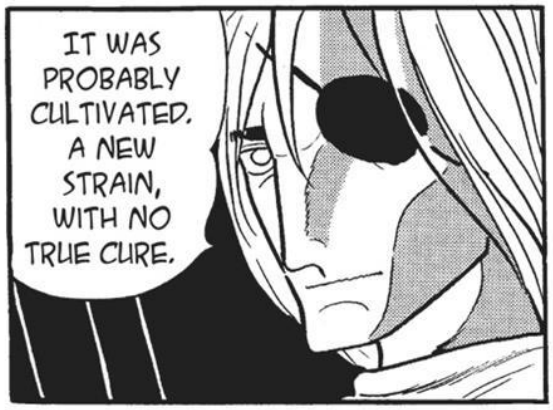

WE HAVE 3 PATIENTS SO FAR. THEY'VE GOTTEN WORSE SINCE THEIR QUARAN-TINE.

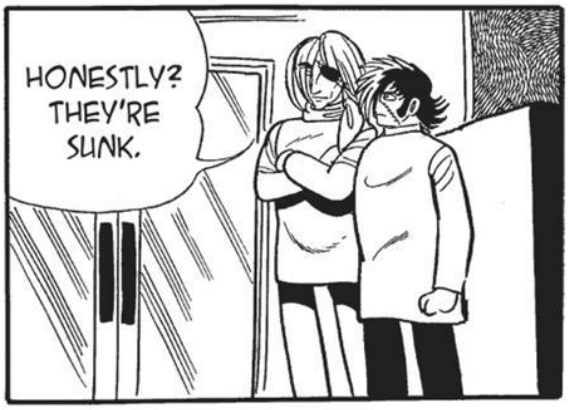

I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES !

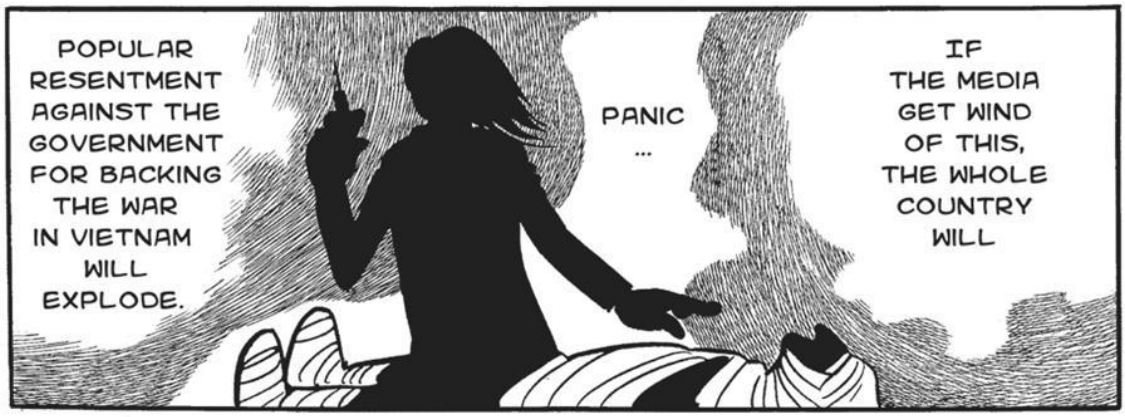

WE KNOW THAT.

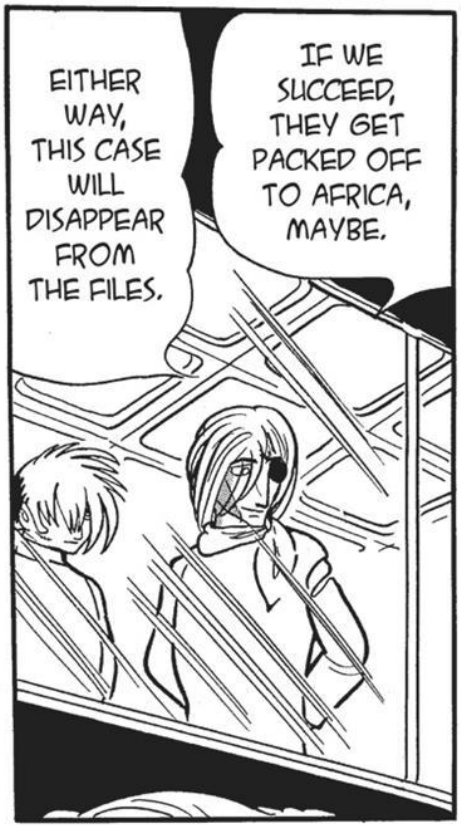


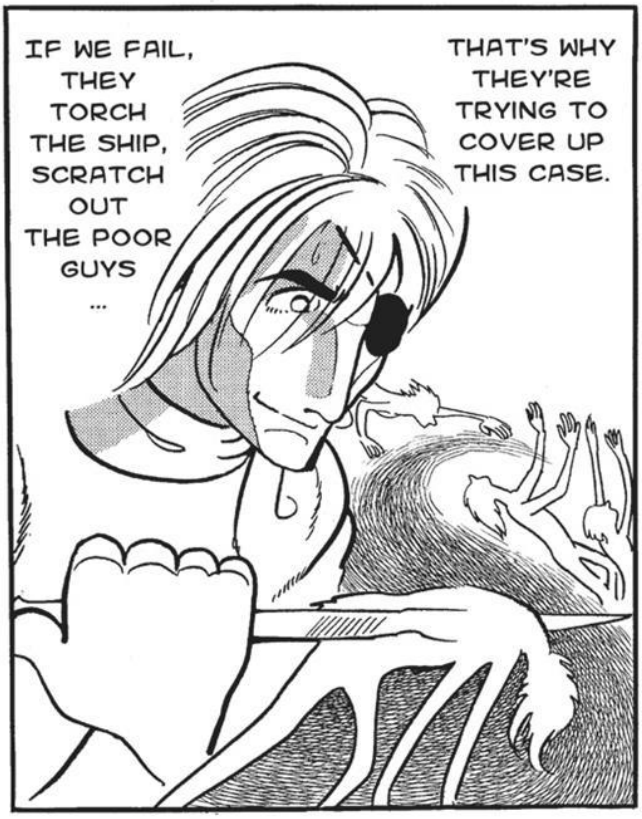
HM... BLOOD SORES AND SKIN SOILING ALL OVER.
GIVE IT A LOOK, DOCTOR.
AND ANEMIA, DROPSY, CACHEXIA, AN ENLARGED SPLEEN, AND MYSTERIOUS TUMORS?
KIRIKO, WHAT'S YOUR OUTLOOK ON THIS?
YES, AND ALSO KALA-AZAR... BUT APPARENTLY IT'S A SPECIAL, BRAND-NEW VIRUS.
IT'S A LOT LIKE DENGUE FEVER.


IT WAS PROBABLY CULTIVATED. A NEW STRAIN, WITH NO TRUE CURE.


HONESTLY? THEY'RE SUNK.

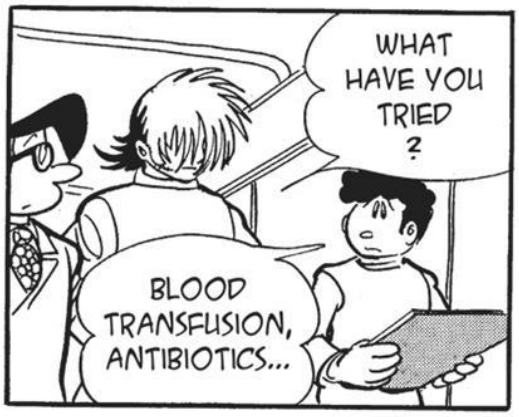

POPULAR RESENTMENT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FOR BACKING THE WAR IN VIETNAM WILL EXPLODE.
PANIC ...
IF THE MEDIA GET WIND OF THIS, THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL


EITHER WAY, THIS CASE WILL DISAPPEAR FROM THE FILES.
IF WE SUCCEED, THEY GET PACKED OFF TO AFRICA, MAYBE.


IF WE FAIL, THEY TORCH THE SHIP, SCRATCH OUT THE POOR GUYS ...
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE TRYING TO COVER UP THIS CASE.

ARE YOU SURE ?
IT'LL BE A WASTE OF EFFORT.
OKAY, JUST LET ME DO WHAT I CAN FIRST!

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE ALMOST NO CONFIDENCE ...


WHAT HAVE YOU TRIED ?
BLOOD TRANSFUSION, ANTIBIOTICS...

DOCTOR, YOUR VACCINE.
BUT THIS TIME...
OH BOY.
FORGET IT. NO USE !

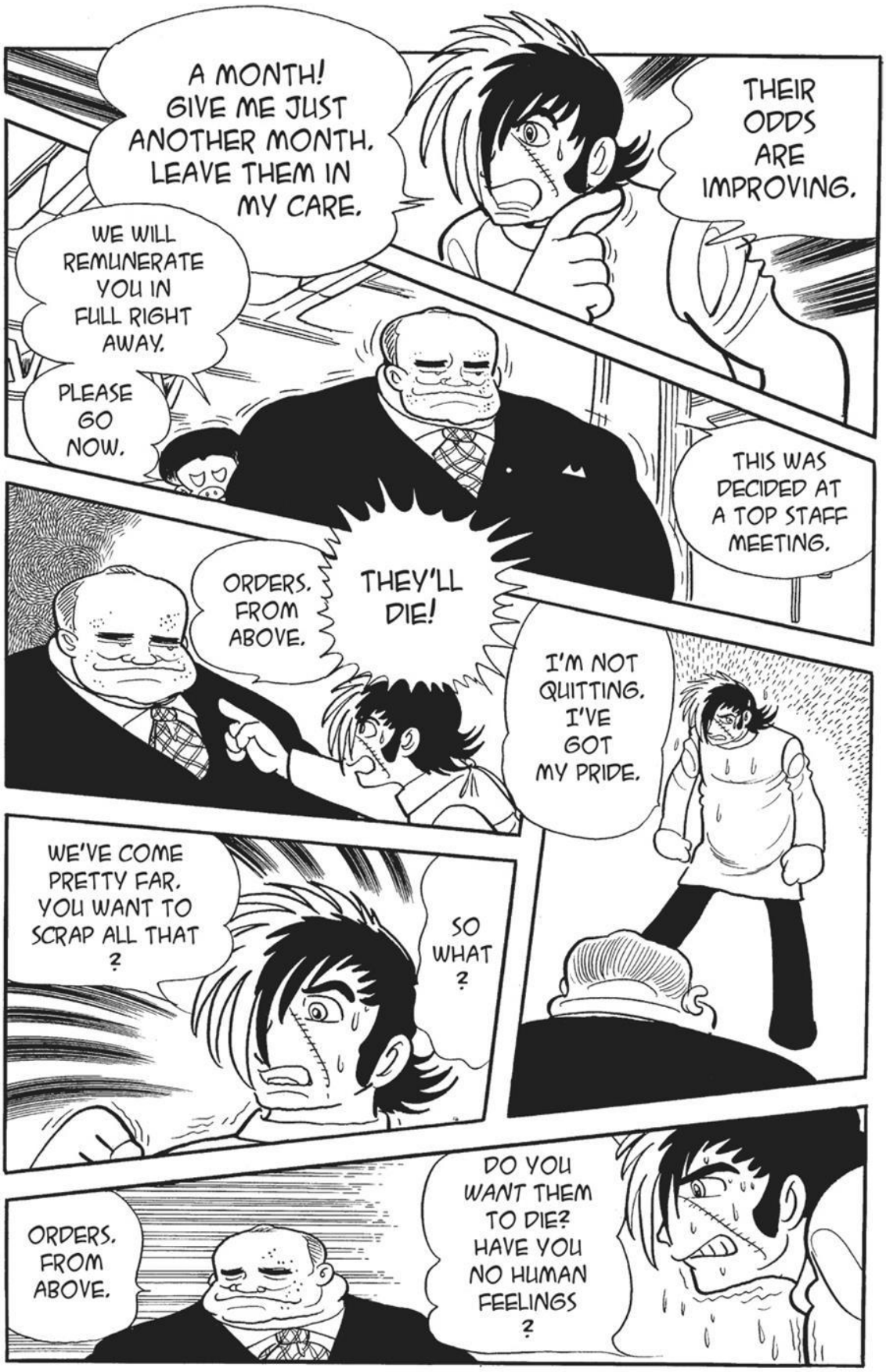
FOR 100 MILLION YEN, THOUGH, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

99% OF THEM ...
I'VE CURED

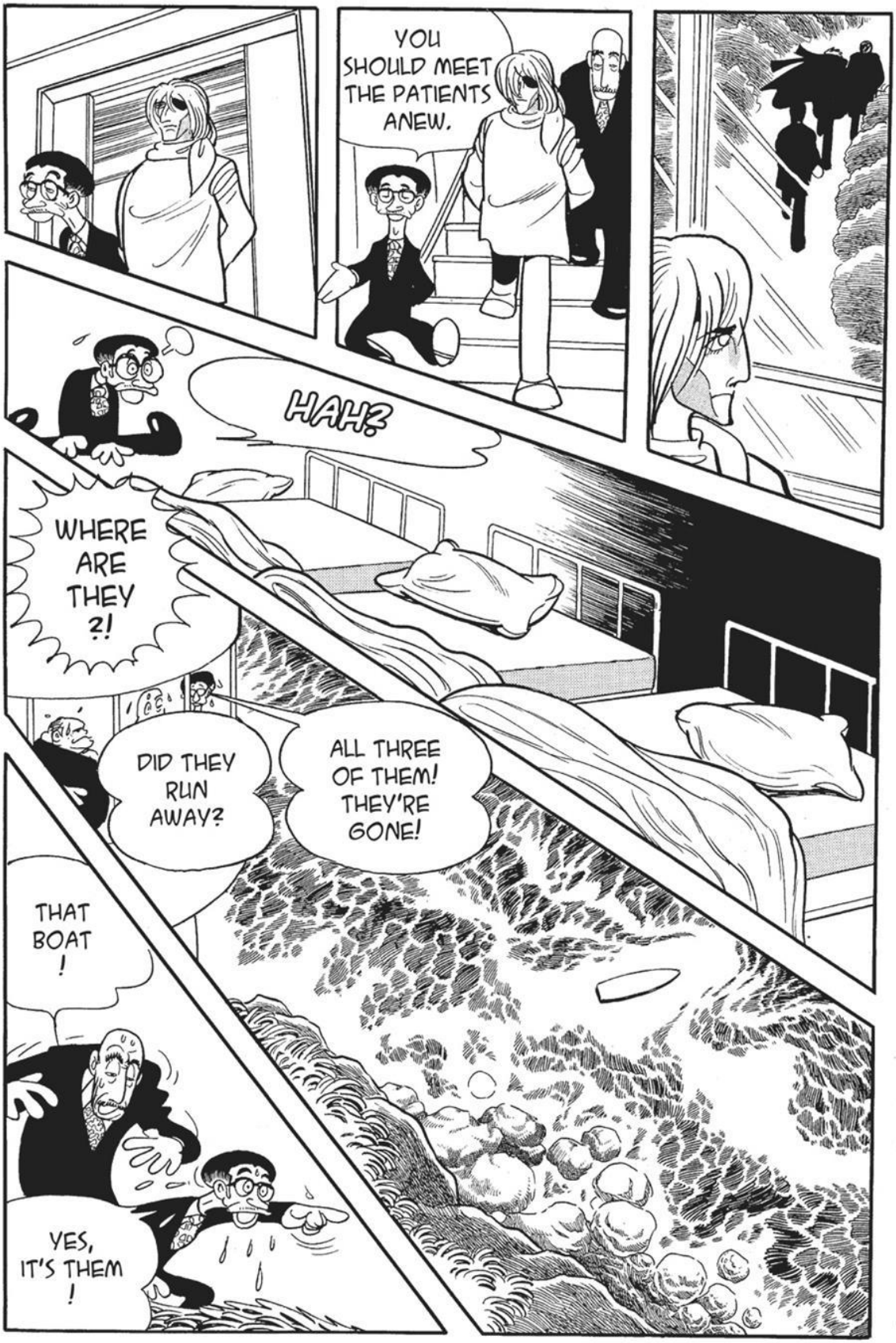
ADMINISTER NEOSTIBOSAN, CONTINUE TRANSFUSION. ALSO 0.3 G OF ACRINAMINE.
CANCER IN THE PYLORIC REGION. CUTTING IT OUT.
HOLY! ALL THE WAY TO THE DUODENUM!
PHEW...
TRANS-PLANT ON TRUNK.
I MUST BE A FOOL.
HARDLY. I GO ON ANYWAY ...
IS IT WORTH IT?
I'VE NEVER FELT
SO IN-SECURE
IN A
LONG WHILE.

ANES-THESIA FOR #2!
10TH OP.
5TH DAY ...
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, LOOK !
PHEW...
IT'D BE A MIRACLE.
HE MIGHT ACTUALLY RECOVER.
PATIENT #3'S WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT IS RISING.
HOPE. WHAT A THING !
MIGHT ACTUALLY RECOVER, HUH ?
NO, IT'S THE RESULT OF YOUR WEEKLONG EFFORT!
IT WAS GUESS-WORK.

I'M SORRY, DOCTOR. I HAVE ORDERS FROM ABOVE. PLEASE CEDE TO DOCTOR KIRIKO.
WHAT DID YOU SAY ?!
I'M NOT SURE YET.
DOCTOR, W-WILL I GET BETTER ?
TH... THANK YOU !!
N-NOT SURE? THEN I'M NOT DOOMED ?
WHY? WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN? I'M STILL TREATING THEM!
TO DOCTOR KIRIKO ?
HE'LL PUT THEM TO DEATH !
YOU CAN'T HAND THEM OVER TO HIM...
ORDERS FROM...
YOU MAY GO NOW.
MY SUPERIOR HAS ORDERED ME TO REPLACE YOU WITH HIM.

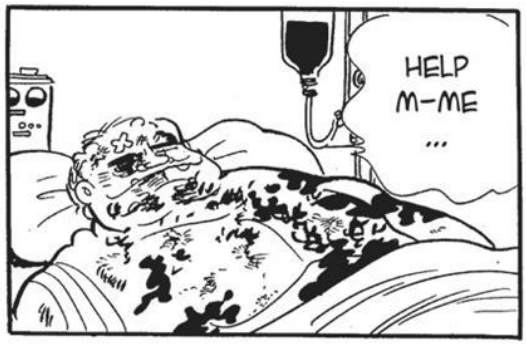

A MONTH! GIVE ME JUST ANOTHER MONTH. LEAVE THEM IN MY CARE.
THEIR ODDS ARE IMPROVING.
WE WILL REMUNERATE YOU IN FULL RIGHT AWAY.
PLEASE GO NOW.
THIS WAS DECIDED AT A TOP STAFF MEETING.
ORDERS. FROM ABOVE.
THEY'LL DIE!
I'M NOT QUITTING. I'VE GOT MY PRIDE.
WE'VE COME PRETTY FAR. YOU WANT TO SCRAP ALL THAT ?
SO WHAT ?
ORDERS. FROM ABOVE.
DO YOU WANT THEM TO DIE? HAVE YOU NO HUMAN FEELINGS ?

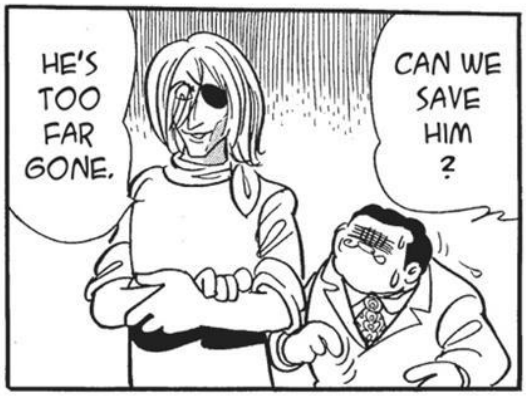
PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.
TELL YOUR SUPERIOR THAT YOU'RE ALL SCUM!
THE OTHER FIFTY MILLION.
IT'S YOUR TURN.
GOING HOME? HEHEH.
THEY'LL BE IN GOOD HANDS.
...


YOU SHOULD MEET THE PATIENTS ANEW.
HAH?
WHERE ARE THEY ?!
DID THEY RUN AWAY?
ALL THREE OF THEM! THEY'RE GONE!
THAT BOAT !
YES, IT'S THEM !

WE CAN'T LET THEM LAND !!
BLACK JACK MUST HAVE TOLD THEM TO ESCAPE!
CRAP! THEY DID RUN AWAY !
ARRGH
WE'LL USE THAT OTHER BOAT DOWN THERE.
OOPS

HALF-DEAD.


HELP M-ME ...


HE'S TOO FAR GONE.
CAN WE SAVE HIM ?

THEY FELL OFF THE CLIFF! THREE MEN !
HEYYY
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG ?

CHI-LL

GRN

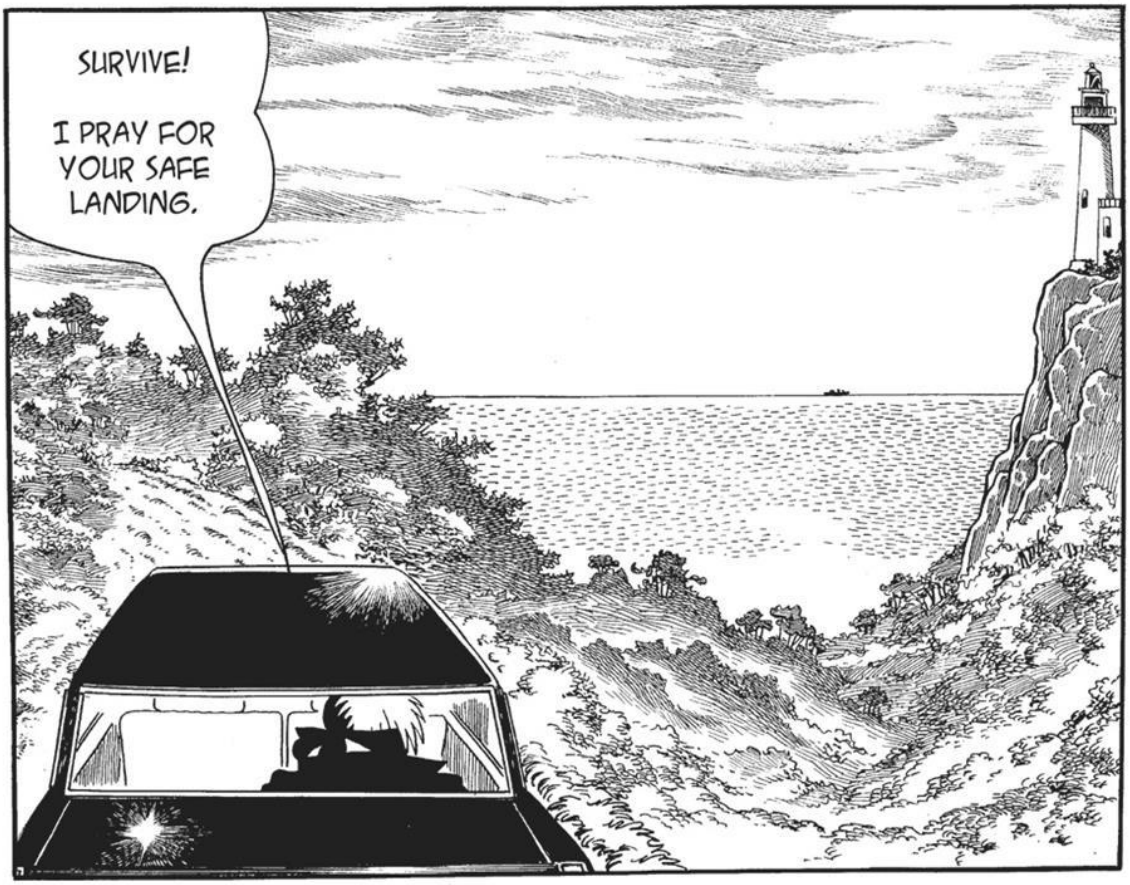
BUT I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

NOO
OOO

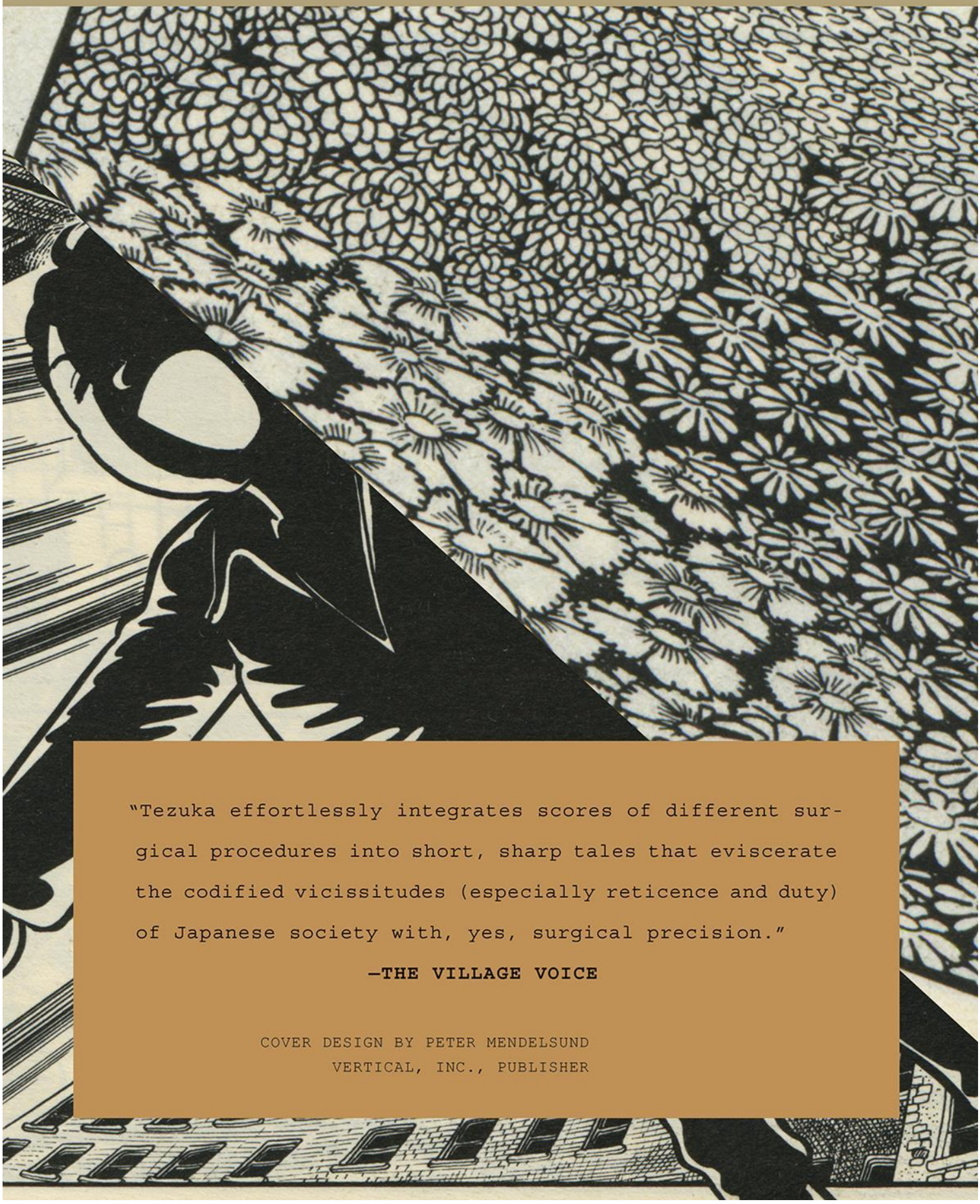
LET ME RELIEVE YOU.

NEVER MIND, HEH HEH ...
THEN TELL ME, DO YOU SEE A BOAT?
A SMALL ONE, YES. SO WHAT?

YOU MAY NOT!
MAY I TAKE OFF MY BLINDFOLD FOR JUST A SEC?


SURVIVE!
I PRAY FOR YOUR SAFE LANDING.

// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //



"Tezuka effortlessly integrates scores of different surgical procedures into short, sharp tales that eviscerate the codified vicissitudes (especially reticence and duty) of Japanese society with, yes, surgical precision."

—THE VILLAGE VOICE

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